

Bush announces anti-nuclear moves

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) — President George Bush said Monday the United States will not produce plutonium or highly-enriched uranium for weapons in a strengthened programme aimed at halting the spread of nuclear arms. Mr. Bush noted that the demand for nuclear weapons persists "and new supplies of key technologies are emerging."

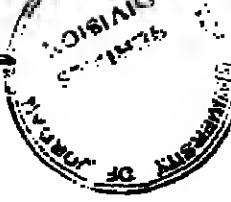
They are, he said, "a growing threat to U.S. national security interests and world peace." The president said export controls alone cannot stop the spread and "we need to employ the full range of political, security, intelligence and other tools at our disposal."

He issued "a set of principles" to guide the country's non-proliferation efforts for the years ahead. "These steps include a decision not to produce plutonium and highly-enriched uranium for nuclear explosive purposes and a number of proposals to strengthen international actions against those who contribute to the spread of weapons of mass destruction and the missiles that deliver them," he said. A high administration official in Washington said the United States had not produced plutonium for a number of years, but was making that practice now a formal policy.

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Iran charges U.S. spreading rumours

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei accused the United States Monday of continuing to spread unfounded rumours that Iran has the atom bomb, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. His accusation followed allegations earlier this year by U.S. officials and an Iranian exile opposition group that Iran was seeking to hire nuclear scientists and buy nuclear weapons from the former Soviet Union. Tehran denied those reports at the time. Propaganda campaigns accusing Iran of militarism and possessing nuclear weapons "are wicked acts by the United States and Zionism," IRNA quoted Ayatollah Khamenei as saying. A nuclear bomb was not something "that could be transferred quietly from one country to another," he said in an address to military commanders in Tehran. "They (the United States and Israel) spread rumours in this regard to distort the image of the Islamic system as an opponent of peace in the world," he said.

One killed in Israeli shelling on unifi zone in south

TYRE (AP) — Israeli and allied militia gunners shelled a U.N.-controlled village in South Lebanon Monday, killing a 40-year-old civilian man, security sources said. The sources said Israeli troops and militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) opened up with mortar and howitzer fire at dawn on the village of Yater. They identified the victim as Hassan Heidar Jaafar. Yater, 29 kilometres southeast of the port city of Tyre, is policed by Nepalese soldiers of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon. Unifil sources said more than 11 artillery rounds were fired on the village during the 30-minute barrage, but that none of the Nepalese soldiers was hurt.

Bedoun ruled innocent by Kuwaiti appeals court

KUWAIT (AP) — The highest appeals court on Monday issued its first verdict in a collaboration case, upholding the innocent verdict of a stateless Arab (Bedoun) accused of working as an informer for the Iraqi armed forces. The court of cassation, in its first review of a case from the state security court, said that Huwar Jabbar had not worked as a collaborator during the seven-month Iraqi occupation that ended in February 1991. The attorney general had asked the higher court to review the case after Jabbar was found innocent in May. Under the Kuwaiti legal system, prosecutors — not just defendants — are allowed to request appeals of verdicts. The court is expected to hear more cases, including two Iraqis appealing the first death sentences of the new round of trials.

Mystery Russian diplomat in India sent home

NEW DELHI (R) — A Russian diplomat in India, tracked down in a Himalayan resort after disappearing mysteriously last week, is being sent home for questioning and may be sacked, his colleagues said on Monday. They said First Secretary Alexander Ganich, 41, would be sent to Moscow soon for questioning by the Foreign Ministry after he left the embassy without telling anyone. Police escorted Mr. Ganich to New Delhi after a three-day hunt tracked him down to his hideout near the tourist resort of Manali in Himachal Pradesh, state.

Egypt holds 3 over forged passports

CAIRO (R) — Police arrested two Egyptians and a Sri Lankan on Monday, breaking up a gang which forged passports and visas to the United States, Canada, and Germany, airport security sources said. The sources said two Chinese stopped with forged passports at Cairo airport told police on Sunday they had each paid \$2,500 in Bangkok for a passport to enable them to travel to the United States, where they intended to seek political asylum.

Rabin takes over as Israeli premier

Labour leader offers to visit Arab states and invites Hussein for talks

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Yitzhak Rabin took over on Monday as Israel's prime minister with an offer to travel to Arab countries and an invitation to Arab leaders to Jerusalem to advance the quest for peace in the Middle East. The coalition government dominated by Mr. Rabin's Labour Party replaced the hard-line Likud-led cabinet headed by Yitzhak Shamir with 67 votes against 53 in the 120-member Knesset (parliament).

In his speech to parliament seeking a vote of confidence, Mr. Rabin invited the leaders of Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon as well as Faisal Hussein, leader of the Palestinian peace negotiating team, to go to Jerusalem for informal talks with him. The invitation to Mr. Hussein was seen as particularly significant since the outgoing government of Yitzhak Shamir had kept him outside the actual negotiating room on the ground that he was a resident of Arab East Jerusalem. Mr. Shamir argued that any participation in the peace

talks by an East Jerusalemite would pose a question on Israel's claim that "undivided Jerusalem" is the "eternal capital" of the Jewish state.

The vote of confidence in the Rabin government came after six hours of debate.

Introducing his government to parliament, Mr. Rabin broke new ground by — Inviting the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel for an "informal talks" in Jerusalem in what was interpreted by analysts as an apparent confidence-building measure gesture long advocated by the United States.

— Calling on Israelis to shed their fears and sense of isolation and adapt to the new post-cold war world; and — Describing the threatened spread of nuclear weapons in the Middle East as undermining the "urgent need to end the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Palestinian leaders said they wanted to study the speech before reacting, but the initial comment from Mr. Hussein was upbeat. "It is a very important speech. There are interesting points," he said. Mr. Rabin did not even mention the Palestine Liberation Organisation

(PLO) by name. Instead, he addressed himself directly to the Palestinians. "You who live in ... wretched poverty ... you who have never known a single day of freedom and joy in your lives: Listen to us, if only this once. We offer you the fairest and most viable proposal from our standpoint today: Autonomy, self-government, with all its advantages and limitations."

"You will not get everything you want. Perhaps neither will we. So once and for all, take your destiny in your hands. Don't lose this opportunity that may never return ..."

He called on the Jewish state to make progress at the next round of Arab-Israeli negotiations, to be held in Rome. "I cannot see the point of inviting us to go to Jerusalem before we really see constructive success in the negotiations in the proper place in which we have all agreed to go to," Abdul Salam Majali told Reuters. "Israeli leaders have said this many times but one can see it is just talk."

"The real issue is the absolute acceptance of 242," Dr. Majali said, referring to one of the U.N. resolutions calling on Israel to withdraw from seized Arab lands. Mr. Rabin told the Israeli parliament before taking over as prime minister that he was prepared to travel to the capitals of his Arab enemies to discuss peace.

He also invited King Hussein, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Lebanese President Elias Hrawi and the Jordanian-Palestinian team to the peace talks to Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin, who pledged to speed up the pace of peace talks after crushing hardline Yitzhak Shamir's Likud government in elections last month, said he was inviting the joint delegation to

informal talks in Jerusalem as a first step proving his government's "sincerity and goodwill."

Palace and senior government officials in Amman said they had no immediate comment on Mr. Rabin's statement. State-run television did not mention the invitation on its main newscast.

But officials said Jordan was certain to maintain its position of rejecting direct talks with Israel without a comprehensive settlement on the Jewish state's withdrawal from occupied Arab lands.

Citing lack of progress in peace talks begun last October, Arab delegations have rejected the pre-

(Continued on page 2)

Ashrawi says Rabin speech important; PLO seeking direct contacts

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Hanan Ashrawi, Palestinian spokeswoman at Middle East peace talks, said on Monday incoming Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's appeal for peace agreements showed a new seriousness in Israel's approach.

"It had very important points and signals willingness to deal with issues seriously and step up negotiations continuously," she said.

"But we need concrete proof about the seriousness of their intent and to undo the bad taste left by the Likud (government) of outgoing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir," she told Reuters.

In a speech presenting his government to parliament for approval, Mr. Rabin said Arab leaders could come to Jerusalem or he could go to them to seek a breakthrough in the U.S.-brokered Middle East peace talks.

Dr. Ashrawi said Mr. Rabin

should order an end to Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, release Palestinian prisoners and stop rights violations.

Senior Palestinian leader Faisal Al Hussein described Mr. Rabin's speech as "important" but refused to make any further comment.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is seeking direct, high-level talks with Israel's new government despite an Israeli legal ban, Cairo Radio said Monday.

The radio, quoting an unidentified Palestinian official, said the PLO considers that ban "racist" and demands that it be repealed.

Under Mr. Shamir, Israel dismissed the PLO as a "terrorist" group dedicated to the Jewish state's destruction.

Because of this stand, the PLO was excluded from Arab-Israeli peace talks that opened in Madrid, Spain, last October under the

(Continued on page 2)

Tunisian militants break silence

TUNIS (R) — Muslim fundamentalists on trial in a Tunisian military court agreed to be questioned in court on Monday after the judge allowed defence lawyers to visit them.

Court President Rachid Kedous also put off the questioning of other defendants until they had access to their lawyers.

A total of 279 defendants, many facing the death penalty, are charged with plotting to kill President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali as part of a plan to turn Tunisia into an Islamic state.

Those who answered questions on Monday acknowledged their membership of the banned fundamentalist Al Nahdha (Renaissance) movement but again rejected charges of plotting.

"All what we decided was to organise mass demonstrations in the streets to pressure the government to legalise our movement and for the release of our comrades," said accused Ahmad Bouazzi.

The first defendant to testify last Saturday had confessed to membership of Al Nahdha but denied planning to assassinate Mr. Ben Ali or to create an Islamic state.

They testified that their confessions during investigations were made under pressure and refused to answer questions, saying their lawyers had not been allowed to visit them in prison before the trial to prepare their cases.



Algerians wait to attend the military trial of Muslim fundamentalist leaders

Majali brushes aside Israeli offer, says Rome is the venue for talks

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan's chief delegate to Arab-Israeli talks dismissed an invitation on Monday by incoming Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for peace talks in Jerusalem.

He called on the Jewish state to make progress at the next round of Arab-Israeli negotiations, to be held in Rome.

"I cannot see the point of inviting us to go to Jerusalem before we really see constructive success in the negotiations in the proper place in which we have all agreed to go to," Abdul Salam Majali told Reuters. "Israeli leaders have said this many times but one can see it is just talk."

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(Continued on page 2)

Ghozali to testify in FIS trial

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The former head of Algeria's government told a military tribunal Monday that the decision to use force against protesting fundamentalists in 1991 was "taken at the highest level."

But former Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche declined to directly implicate then-President Chadli Benjedid during testimony at the trial of seven top fundamentalist leaders charged with fomenting armed rebellion against the state, the state-run news agency AFS reported.

All the defendants, leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), have refused to attend the trial since it reconvened Sunday after a two-week recess. Defence attorneys have said "the verdict was established in advance" and that the presence of their clients "will change nothing."

Military prosecutor Boualem Boukhari on Sunday refused to allow the international press and human rights observers to attend the trial.

The military court heard 50 of 60 scheduled witnesses in a session that ran from Sunday through early Monday morning. State-run Algerian television predicted a verdict as early as Monday.

But when the court reconvened at 11 a.m., it was announced that proceedings would be recessed for 24-hours to allow three new witnesses to be called to court.

The three — former Prime Minister Sid Ahmad Ghozali, who resigned last week, former National Assembly Speaker Abdul Aziz Belkhadem, and Abdul Hamid Mehri, head of the former ruling National Liberation Front — had all been requested by the defence to testify.

Tension mounts as U.N. vigil continues in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.N. weapons inspectors on a long vigil outside Baghdad's Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation are beginning to feel tension as some Iraqis display mounting hostility towards them.

Demonstrations and isolated incidents bordering on violence are stepping up pressure on the inspectors as the standoff drags on with no sign of a breakthrough.

Iraqi officials say the U.N. team, now in the ninth day of its vigil, is arousing the hatred of the population, and U.N. officials admit they are beginning to feel the anger.

On Sunday, 500 students demonstrated at the ministry, burning a U.S. flag in protest at the inspectors who are demanding access under U.N. Security Council Gulf war ceasefire resolutions to seek and destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

In another incident, a passer-by grabbed one of the inspectors

by the arm on Sunday as he strolled outside his car, apparently intending to beat him.

Iraqi guards seized the man and Husam Ameen, head of the Iraqi side accompanying U.N. teams, said he would be punished. But Mr. Ameen said anger was mounting against the inspectors.

"There is anger in the Iraqi street, because the people think it is U.N. inspectors' reports which keep the (U.N. trade) sanctions in place," Mr. Ameen said.

The inspectors were posted for a ninth day in a vigil outside the building, suspected of harbouring documents on Iraq's long-range missiles.

U.N. sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the AP in Bahrain they did not expect any change in the situation until the Security Council announces its next move, possibly after hearing a report by U.S. Army Major Karen Jansen.

Baghdad said to reject U.N. terms for oil sales

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq has decided to reject U.N. terms for limited oil sales mainly because it would only be allowed to export through Turkey, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said.

The respected weekly newsletter said Baghdad feared that with only one export route permitted, Ankara would demand exorbitant transit fees. Furthermore, the northern pipeline passes through territory held by Kurdish rebels.

The decision to turn down the proposal followed meetings between Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and Abdul Amir Al Anbari, Iraq's U.N. ambassador, said MEES, which has good sources in the Middle East oil industry and in Iraq.

Mr. Anbari led the Iraqi delegation to talks in Vienna last month over the proposed one-shot of \$1.6 billion worth of oil.

During the talks, the U.N. suggested that some 10 per cent

of the oil be exported from the southern Mina Al Bakr offshore loading terminal.

Iraq has demanded it be allowed to ship all its oil from the south, because it is more convenient for export to Asia, a major customer, and less susceptible to Kurdish attacks.

The U.N. Security Council has prohibited Iraq from exporting oil since its forces invaded Kuwait in August 1990. It offered the limited sale to pay for U.N. costs and a compensation fund for victims of the Gulf war that liberated Kuwait in February last year and for medicines and food supplies.

Iraq also has complained that the money was not enough to pay for the supplies, transit fees and the other costs.

Turkey initially demanded that Iraq pay a flat sum of \$264 million as a transit fee for the oil to be pumped during the six-month period envisaged by the United States.

Fateh-Hamas political showdown in making

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

DESPITE AN agreement to end violent clashes between the mainstream Palestinian Fateh group and the Islamist opposition movement Hamas, the two sides are bracing themselves for a political showdown, especially if the new Israeli government approves elections for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Fateh, which leads the proponents of peace talks with Israel, is already acting as if it is preparing the ground for the elections to ensure the dominance of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Although Hamas, the strongest opposition movement to the peace process, has not declared its position on such elections, the Islamic group is expected to contest Fateh's influence either by taking part in the polls or boycotting it.

But even if the peace talks,

which are supposed to resume next month in Rome, do not lead to elections — at least before the end of this year — competition between Fateh and Hamas is expected to intensify as the Israeli and Palestinian sides get down to discussing autonomy arrangements in the occupied territories.

Judging from contacts with officials from the two groups, both sides consider the next months as crucial to the ongoing power struggle between the supporters and opponents of the peace process.

"The recent clashes, as tragic as they were, were an indicator of the growing opposition to the peace talks," said Ibrahim Ghosheh, Hamas spokesman in Amman.

Mr. Ghosheh believes that this opposition will expand as the peace talks resume while Fateh officials argue that a breakthrough in the process, which, in their view, is possible, will boost the PLO leadership's status in the occupied territories.

"Hamas has already suffered setback in the elections (of professional organisations) in the occupied territories," pointed out Marwan Barghouti, a Fateh official who was deported by the Israeli authorities after the eruption of the Palestinian uprising less than five years ago.

They are concerned, however, that Hamas is likely to make gains if there is a setback in the peace process, but believe that the fundamentalist group would not be able to outbid the PLO leadership of the Palestinian people.

Some Fateh officials who are closely associated with the infatigable leadership argue that the majority of the Palestinians will welcome any breakthrough that will alleviate their suffering and will not follow Hamas.

They are concerned, however, that Hamas is likely to make gains if there is a setback in the peace process, but believe that the fundamentalist group would not be able to outbid the PLO leadership of the Palestinian people.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Ghosheh insisted that Hamas had no intention of replacing or even marginalising the PLO.

"Such goals are not part of the movement's tactical or strategic objectives," he said implying that at least for the time being Hamas will seek to avert a bone-breaking confrontation with Fateh.

Mr. Ghosheh implied that the Islamic movement's aim was not to undermine the PLO but to challenge the assumption that the peace talks have a national Palestinian consensus.

Since its formal inception, Hamas has refused to join the PLO and has persistently demanded that the organisation drop peace talks with Israel.

Although Hamas has not changed its position, Mr. Ghosheh does not suggest that talks with Israel be dropped but rather questions Palestinian popular support for the negotiations.

"We would like to take part in the PLO on a democratic

basis," he said. "It means that the PLO's platform should be based on the Palestinian people's choice."

Fateh officials counter that so far the popular mood in the occupied territories remains in support of the peace talks and will continue to be so. "Even Hamas supporters will not reject a settlement that will alleviate their suffering if the talks can lead to an Israeli withdrawal from at least the populated areas," one Fateh official argued.

Although there is significant opposition to the peace talks inside the Fateh movement and leadership, it seems that proponents remain dominant in the occupied territories.

Supporters of the peace process pin hope on the leftist part of the new Israeli government to pressure Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to authorise Palestinian elections and a partial Israeli withdrawal.

They deny Hamas accusa-

(Continued on page 2)

Rabin's hope for peace faces Arab, Jewish scepticism

By Jack Redden

Reuter

TEL AVIV — Yitzhak Rabin takes over as Israeli prime minister with a public commitment to quickly reach peace with Palestinians but surrounded by sceptics among both Arabs and Israelis.

"One of the first problems facing the new Israeli government is the expectations from it. The United States and Europe are expecting the Rabin government to transform realities overnight," the daily Yedioth Ahronot said on Monday.

However, those expectations have been fed by Mr. Rabin himself. He reiterated on unveiling his coalition cabinet that he wanted early agreement on limited self-rule — autonomy — for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank.

That was underlined by his decision to personally hold powers affecting the talks — directing the negotiating teams and making himself defence

minister.

Mr. Rabin, a former army chief, is proposing what amounts to a two-track approach to the U.S.-brokered peace talks.

Although he remains committed to the format begun in Madrid last October, continuing direct talks with delegations from Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, he has set a target of agreement on autonomy with Palestinians within nine months. A final peace settlement would come five years later.

Instead of the infrequent and futile negotiations under defeated Likud Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Mr. Rabin wants the next meeting planned for Rome to mark the start of continuous negotiations.

As part of this emphasis on peace talks — which Mr. Shamir had to be pressured to even enter — Mr. Rabin has promised to curb spending on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and divert the hundreds of millions of dollars saved each year back into the

mainstream Israeli economy.

Quite aside from the goal of securing peace, Mr. Rabin knows this could repair relations with Washington that under Mr. Shamir plummeted to their lowest levels since the 1950s.

Mr. Rabin has already announced plans to visit Washington soon, with hopes of eventually securing U.S. guarantees for \$10 billion in loans that President George Bush refused to grant Mr. Shamir.

Whether progress in the peace talks will be as dramatic is less assured.

Israelis are still deeply divided over returning occupied land and Mr. Rabin will have to move cautiously to ensure a national consensus for an autonomy deal that could lead to withdrawal.

Outgoing Defence Minister Moshe Arens said he doubted Mr. Rabin could reach agreement in nine months and the far-right Tzomet Party refused to join Mr. Rabin's coalition

because it would limit Jewish settlement.

There are also formidable obstacles on the Arab side.

A two-track approach must avoid the impression of settling the Palestinian conflict while ignoring problems such as Syrian demands for the return of the Golan Heights.

Despite Mr. Rabin's view that peace with Syria — and Lebanon where Damascus dominates policy — will come last, other Arabs could disrupt efforts for a separate settlement with Palestinians.

Most importantly, Mr. Rabin's proposals for a deal on the West Bank and Gaza Strip falls far short of goals held by the 1.75 million Palestinians living there.

Palestinians want new Jewish building stopped but Mr. Rabin has promised to curb only "political settlements," those in densely populated Arab areas with no military significance.

Guidelines for his new government promise permanent

control of Arab East Jerusalem, and strengthened Jewish settlement on "confrontation lines." That includes a swath of the West Bank overlooking the Jordan valley as well as the Golan Heights.

Palestinians, buoyed in partial peace talks by the belief they were winning the propaganda battle with an intransigent Mr. Shamir, now fear intense international pressure to scale down their demands.

After losing much of the land originally proposed for an Arab state alongside Israel during the 1947-48 fighting around the creation of the Jewish state, Palestinians now face a proposal under which more land could disappear.

That prospect is already splitting Palestinian society. Members of Fatah, the main group in the Palestine Liberation Organisation and an advocate of peace talks, fought in the streets of Gaza last week with backers of Hamas, an Islamic fundamentalist group opposed to all negotiations.

Fateh-Hamas showdown in making

(Continued from page 1)

tions that the peace camp within Fateh favours ending the intifada in the hope of promoting Israeli concessions.

These doubts are also expressed by the leftist groups that oppose the peace talks.

According to Mr. Ghosheh, while some proponents of the peace process are ready to sacrifice the intifada for the peace talks, others are at least interested in maintaining the intifada as "a bargaining chip" at a later stage of the process.

Palestinian leftist groups have tried to avoid a broader division along the Hamas-Fateh line during the recent clashes.

These groups, it seems, were alarmed that the escalation of violence between the two strong rivals could unleash uncontrollable chaos that will undermine the Palestinian negotiating position and the PLO status.

Furthermore, leftist groups stand to lose if the conflict boosted Hamas. For while a long-term alliance, albeit a turbulent one, is possible with Fateh, it is very difficult to seek such a pact with Hamas.

Leftist groups which oppose the peace process forged a tactical alliance with Hamas immediately after the beginning of the peace talks last October. But during the recent fighting the groups mediated between the two sides and

made it clear that they could not endorse any action that will undermine the PLO. In other words, the leftist groups' commitment to the PLO outweighed their eagerness to rally a popular front against the peace talks.

Palestinian analysts believe that Fateh and Hamas now realise their limitations and strength.

While Hamas is now aware that an outright challenge of PLO authority could backfire, the Fateh leadership is aware that Hamas is not easy to be cut down to size. "Competition has to take other peaceful forms unless the two sides are ready to indulge in a self-destructive struggle," said an independent PLO official.

Rabin takes over as premier

(Continued from page 1)

Where Mr. Shamir's speeches invariably lauded the Nazi holocaust and laid "ideological" claim to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Mr. Rabin's address barely mentioned the past.

"I invite the King of Jordan and the presidents of Syria and Lebanon to this room in Israel's Knesset, here in Jerusalem, for the purpose of talking peace," Mr. Rabin told parliament.

"In the service of peace, I am prepared to travel in Amman, Damascus and Beirut today, tomorrow. For there is no greater victory than the victory of peace," he said.

Wars have their victors and their vanquished, but everyone is a victor in peace.

Mr. Rabin has made the acceleration of the U.S.-brokered peace talks with Palestinians, Jordanians, Lebanese and Syrians a top priority for his new government. Talks are to resume in Rome at an undecided date.

Mr. Rabin has set a nine-month target for reaching agreement on limited self-rule — autonomy — for the 1.75 million Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Rabin, a former defence minister who tried to brutally suppress the Palestinian revolt that began in 1987, warned Palestinians that Israel's alternative was using "every possible means to prevent terror and violence."

The dour, gravel-voiced Rabin — Israel's sixth prime minister in 1974-77 and returns now as the 11th.

Underlining his focus on peace talks, Mr. Rabin put himself in charge of the defence ministry that will have a central role and announced he will personally direct Israel's negotiators.

Mr. Rabin said the threatened proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East made Israel-Arab peace all the more urgent. Israel is widely believed to be the area's only nuclear power.

Mr. Shamir, the 76-year-old former underground terror leader and spy, launched a vicious attack on his successor's government, calling it a "radical, extremist reaction" against his ultra-nationalist policies.

But Mr. Rabin, 70, emphasised his break with the era of Mr. Shamir, who headed the most right-wing government in Israeli history, by vowing to repair relations with the United States and face a changing world.

However, Mr. Rabin — elected on a policy of negotiating from strength — made clear there would be areas where Palestinian-Israeli agreement would be difficult.

Palestinians have demanded a halt to all Jewish settlement on their land and see autonomy as a way-station on the road to full independence.

But Mr. Rabin said he intended to keep large areas occupied in 1967 for their military value. He pledged to strengthen Jewish settlement in the Golan Heights seized from Syria, and a wide swath overlooking the Jordan Valley as well as a still-undefined amount of land around Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin alluded only vaguely to his past pledges to cut back the Shamir government's drive to populate the occupied territories with Jews. He apparently still hopes to broaden his coalition with the right-wing Tzomet party, which supports the settlements.

He promised to "refrain from any steps and activities that would disrupt" peace talks. New settlements built by Mr. Shamir were cited by the United States as the biggest obstacle in those talks.

Mr. Rabin signed coalition agreements last week with the liberal Meretz bloc, with 12 parliamentary seats, and the religious Shas party.

with six Labour has 44 seats.

On Monday, Shas was under increasing pressure from some rabbis to each out the agreement, but party leader Aryeh Deri said the coalition agreement stood.

Even if Shas had reneged, Mr. Rabin still would have had a 61-seat majority with support from two Arab and three Communist legislators outside the government.

This will be one of the most dovish governments ever to rule Israel — and that was probably not Mr. Rabin's intention, according to Israeli commentators.

He badly wanted to bring in Tzomet as a counterweight to Meretz, whose advocacy of territorial compromise and Palestinian rights goes far beyond anything Mr. Rabin could accept.

Following are major excerpts from Mr. Rabin's speech:

"The government's first directive to the negotiating teams will be to step up the talks and keep ongoing discussions between the sides. Within a short time we shall renew the talks in order to diminish the flame of enmity between the Palestinians and the state of Israel."

"As a first step, to prove our sincerity and goodwill, I wish to invite the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to an informal talk, here in Jerusalem, so that we can hear their views, make our heard, and create an appropriate atmosphere for good relations."

"To you, the Palestinians in the territories, our foes today and partners to peaceful coexistence tomorrow, I wish to say: We have been fated to live together on the same patch of land, in the same country. We live our lives with you, beside you, and against you. You have failed in the war against us. One hundred years of your bloodshed and terror against us have brought you only suffering, humiliation, bereavement and pain. ... Your leaders have led you through lies and deceit. They have missed every opportunity, rejected all our proposals for a settlement, and taken you from one tragedy to another."

"You who live in the wretched poverty of Gaza and Khan Yunis, in the refugee camps of Hebron and (Nabulus): You who have never known a single day of freedom and joy in your lives: Listen to us, if only this once. We offer you the fairest and most viable proposal from our standpoint today: Autonomy, self-government with all its advantages and limitations. You will not get everything you want. Perhaps neither will we. ..."

"The new government today urges the Palestinians in the territories to give peace a chance — and to cease all violent and terrorist activity for the duration of autonomy negotiations. ... If the Palestinians reject this proposal, we shall go on talking but treat the territories as though there were no dialogue on autonomy going on between us. Instead of extending a

friendly hand, we will employ every possible means to prevent terror and violence. The choice, in this case, is yours. ..."

"It is only natural that the holding of talks on autonomy creates concern among those (Jews) who have chosen to settle in (the West Bank) and the Gaza district. I hereby inform you that the government ... will be responsible for the security and welfare of the residents of (the West Bank) and the Gaza district. At the same time, the government will refrain from any steps and activities that would disrupt the proper conduct of the negotiations."

"We see the need to stress that the government will continue to enhance and strengthen Jewish settlement along the lines of confrontation, due to their importance for security, and in greater Jerusalem."

"This government, like all of its predecessors, believes there is no disagreement in this house about Israel. ... The government is firm in its resolve that Jerusalem will not be open to negotiation. The coming years will also be marked by the extension of construction in greater Jerusalem."

"The possibility that nuclear weapons will be introduced into the Middle East in the coming years is very grave and a negative development from Israel's standpoint. The government, from its very outset — and possibly in collaboration with other countries — will address itself to thwarting any possibility that one of Israel's enemies will possess nuclear weapons. Israel has long been prepared to face the threat of nuclear arms in the Middle East. At the same time, this situation requires us to give further thought to the urgent need to end the Israeli-Arab conflict. ..."

"Sharing with us in the making of peace will also be the United States, whose friendship and special closeness we prize. We shall spare no effort to strengthen and improve the special relationship we have with the one power in the world ... we shall avail ourselves of its advice, but the decisions will be ours alone, of Israel as a sovereign and independent state."

"We shall also take care to cultivate and strengthen our ties with the European Community. Even if we're not always seen eye to eye and have had our differences with the Europeans, we have no doubt that the road to peace will pass through Europe as well."

Ashrawi

(Continued from page 1)

aspices of the United States and Russia. Palestinian participation was confined to delegates from within the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Majali dismisses Israeli offer

(Continued from page 1)

vous Israeli government's request to move negotiations to the Middle East as a confidence-building measure.

Dr. Majali, who said he expected the next round of negotiations with Israel to resume in Rome late this month, welcomed Mr. Rabin's call for continuous discussions. Jordan has asked for continuous peace talks in an effort to make progress on the stalled negotiations.

Fayez Tarawneh, a senior member of the Jordanian nego-

tiating team, avoided a direct response to Mr. Rabin's call, and implied that Jordan should not accept such an invitation.

"As negotiators, we have our political stand and we repeatedly said that the bilateral negotiations should be conducted at a neutral place," Dr. Tarawneh was quoted as saying by the AP.

He said: "If we move the talks to the region, this means that we should normalise (relations), but we are not in a position to do so," before Israel withdraws from the territories it occupied in the 1967 war.

Key ministers in new Israeli government

TEL AVIV (R) — A sharp-tongued former teacher who backs a Palestinian state and a rabbi embroiled in a financial scandal will share power in Yitzhak Rabin's new Israeli cabinet.

After years of struggling for power and peace, Shimon Peres secures another chance at both as foreign minister.

Mr. Peres, 68, number two in Mr. Rabin's Labour Party, is no stranger to diplomacy, having been both prime minister and foreign minister.

His peace-seeking message makes him popular abroad but a reputation for scheming and losing plagues him at home. He failed to lead Labour to victory in four national elections.

He and Mr. Rabin are long-time rivals.

In the new government, Mr. Rabin insists on taking charge of direct peace talks with the Arabs while Mr. Peres handles multilateral talks on the sidelines.

Education minister Shulamit Aloni is head of the leftist Meretz alliance and a sharp-tongued champion of human rights.

Her appointment was bitterly opposed by far-right and ultra-religious parties that stayed out of the government.

Mr. Aloni, 63, is committed to a Palestinian state alongside Israel. She wants to reduce "privileges that past governments granted religious parties to win their support."

A teacher and a lawyer by profession, Mr. Aloni wants to lengthen Israel's school year, a move to improve the quality of education and reduce pressure on working mothers.

Interior Minister Aryeh Deri, 33, a rabbi who heads the ultra-orthodox Shas Party, is the only outgoing minister to keep his job in the new government.

For two years Mr. Deri and his aides have been embroiled in a scandal involving allegations of theft, embezzlement and fraud.

Before joining Mr. Rabin's coalition, he promised in writing to suspend his cabinet role if indicted.

Abraham Shohat, 56, a former head of the parliamentary finance committee and a close Labour Party confidante of Mr. Rabin, will be finance minister.

He promises shift millions of dollars from Jewish settlements in occupied Arab lands into the Israeli economy in a drive to win U.S. loan guarantees.

A rotund beaming former mayor of a desert town, Mr. Shohat says he will push forward reforms to liberalise capital and foreign exchange markets.

Mordechai "Motta" Gur, 62, commanded the paratroopers who seized Arab East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war when Mr. Rabin was Israel's army chief.

An ex-army chief, he will be deputy defence minister under Mr. Rabin, who will keep the defence portfolio for himself.

Though only a deputy, Mr. Gur says he will be attending all meetings of the policy-making inner cabinet.

Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar, 61, was the first Sephardi Jew from an Arab country to head the powerful Histadrut trade union, which had always been led by European Jews. He took over in 1984 and will quit to assume the ministry.

Germany: Turkey unlikely to join EC soon

ANKARA (R) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said on Sunday that Bonn supported moves to bring Turkey closer to the European Community (EC) but Ankara's bid for full membership was unlikely to succeed soon.

"We'll do our best to bring Turkey closer to Europe through stronger association with the EC," Mr. Kinkel said at a banquet given by Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin.

Mr. Kinkel's spokesman Hans Schumacher said Mr. Cetin asked Mr. Kinkel, in their first round of talks, about Germany's attitude to Turkey's aspirations to join the EC.

"Kinkel told him very directly that Turkish membership was not likely in the foreseeable future," Mr. Schumacher told Reuters.

"But he said Germany would support efforts to bring Turkey closer to the EC, particularly political and economic moves to implement the 1963 association agreement."

Turkey has been an associate EC member since 1963 but its 1987 application for full membership has been shelved.

Mr. Kinkel arrived in Ankara earlier on the first official visit to Turkey by a German foreign minister for eight years.

Mr. Schumacher said one of his main aims in talks with President Turgut Ozal, Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and Mr. Cetin would be to put aside that he called the "misunderstandings of the last few months."

A row over Turkey's treatment of its big Kurdish minority has marred relations between the two NATO allies.

About 1.6 million Kurds, including 400,000 ethnic Kurds, live in Germany.

Germany, a major trade partner and source of tourists to Turkey, resumed arms shipments to Ankara in June, three months after suspending them over Turkey's alleged use of German-supplied armoured vehicles against Kurdish civilians.

Asked about eyewitness reports that the armoured vehicles were still deployed in the mainly Kurdish southeast, Mr. Kinkel told reporters: "If this is true, it is bad news."

Lawyer demands probe into Palestinian's death in jail

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian human rights lawyer has demanded an independent inquiry into the death of an Arab prisoner in an Israeli interrogation cell in the occupied West Bank.

Official military sources said Hazem 'Eid, 23, Al Bireh, committed suicide last Thursday in a cell of the Shin Bet security services in Hebron but lawyer Ahmad Sayyad told Israel Television he was not satisfied by their explanation.

Mr. Sayyad, who saw photographs taken of Mr. 'Eid after his death, said: "We are asking for a neutral committee of inquiry to be set up to find out the circumstances of his death inasmuch as this is not the first such instance in Hebron prison."

Human rights groups say Shin Bet agents have routinely tortured Palestinian prisoners after a 1987 Israeli commission of inquiry report suggested they could use "moderate physical pressure" in their investigations.

The death in Hebron prison, last February of Mustafa Akawi, 36, sparked calls for an independent inquiry. A U.S. pathologist who attended his autopsy said his death bordered on homicide.

In another development, Palestinians beat to death a fellow Arab in the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday, apparently confusing him for a disguised Israeli soldier, the army said.

It said the incident occurred when an army patrol chanced upon a group of about 20 Palestinians in Gaza City, some of whom were armed with axes and clubs.

The army said the troops opened fire on the Palestinians when one of them attacked an officer. Hospitals later reported

six Gazans lightly to moderately wounded from army gunfire. The army said one of the soldiers was lightly injured from blows.

Arab reports said the troops were disguised as Arabs and disrupted a demonstration of 300 activists from the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas.

The undercover unit caused confusion among the Hamas activists who suspected the armed men could have been Fatah activists, Arab reports said.

The clash came amid tension between Hamas and its rival Fatah faction in the Gaza Strip. At least one Palestinian has been killed and dozens hurt in the two-week power struggle between, with both sides ignoring a truce.

Hamas opposes the Fatah-backed autonomy negotiations with Israel as a sellout.

Also Sunday, the head of the army's undercover squad in the occupied West Bank which accidentally shot and killed a soldier from their own unit was removed of command Sunday, the army said.

The incident occurred last Thursday when the unit, which usually disguises itself in Arab costumes to seize suspected Palestinian activists, entered the village of Baria in search of fugitives.

West Bank commander Dani Yatom personally investigated the incident and said the head of the undercover squad, a lieutenant colonel, had failed in his command, the army said.

On Saturday, outgoing Defence Minister Moshe Arens criticised the army of a lack of discipline citing the recent deaths of soldiers due to negligence and disregard for orders.

BIS has no comment on Iraqi charge

BASEL, Switzerland (R) — The Bank for International Settlements said on Monday it had no comment on a report Iraq was taking court action against it for not releasing frozen assets needed to buy food and medicine. "I cannot make any comment on bilateral relations between the BIS and other banks or countries," a spokesman for the BIS, central bank to the world's central banks, said.

The Iraqi government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah, quoting an unnamed Ministry of Trade official, said on Sunday the BIS had refused a demand by Baghdad to free assets worth \$350 million and the ministry of trade and the Central Bank of Iraq were in the process of filing a suit.

The spokesman said he had no knowledge of any such suit and added the last time the BIS was taken to court was in the 1930s. The Iraqi newspaper said the BIS was violating a security council resolution that permits Iraq to use its frozen assets to meet its citizens' needs for food and medicine. Iraq's assets abroad were impounded when it invaded Kuwait in 1990. Imports of food and medicine are permitted under United Nations sanctions, but oil exports are forbidden, leaving Iraq short of funds to pay for them.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Les Aventures de Joe
18:10	Chamonix
18:30	Marc et Sophie
19:00	News in French
19:15	Le Cerveau
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Acropolis Now
21:00	Mr. Bean
21:30	The Palace Guard
22:00	News in English
22:30	Oscar film "True Grit"
PRAYER TIMES	
06:01	Fajr
07:43	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:41	Dhuhr
16:22	'Asr
19:49	Maghrib
21:22	Iqda
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetich, Tel. 510740	
Assisians of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De in Salla Church Tel. 661757	
Terzian Church Tel. 622566	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel. 625542.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772361.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611295.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932.	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	20/30
Aqaba	24/39

Deserts	16/34
Jordan Valley	23/38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Farooq Noor	786680
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaidi	736123
Dr. Salwan Daboudi	770731
Dr. Abdul Aziz Taboun	783708
Pina pharmacy	661912
Fardous pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637025
Al Asema pharmacy	637025
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsian pharmacy	637660

ERBID:

Dr. Masar Sharabi	(-)
AL Starza pharmacy	275825

Parliament speakers urge Belgians to seek the truth about Middle East issues

AMMAN (Petra) — The Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Monday received a delegation representing the youth organisations in Belgium and discussed with them current Middle Eastern affairs urging them to relay the facts about the situation in the Middle East region.

Speaker of the Upper House Ahmad Al Lawzi spoke about Israeli inhuman practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, noting that Israel is blocking the path of peace by refusing to recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Lawzi called on the group members to urge the European Community to pressure Israel to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions on Palestine and abide by the international legitimacy so that peace can be established. The speaker of the Lower

House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat urged the group to seek the facts about the situation in the region and to counter the distorted image about the situation in the region as earlier relayed by hostile media.

Dr. Arabiyat spoke in detail about Israel's atrocities in the occupied Arab territories and the plight of the Palestinian refugees who were turned out of their homeland.

Dr. Arabiyat urged them to find ways of alleviating the suffering of the people of the Middle East.

Discussion during the meetings also touched on the situation in the area in the wake of the Gulf war, with the two speakers underlining that Jordan is strictly abiding by the U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq but regretably the country continues to face a hostile campaign and unjust campaign.

Japan finances and guides JEA training course

AMMAN (J.T.) — The training course for Arab countries' engineers in the field of electric power was inaugurated at the Electric Training Centre of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) on Monday. The training course will be supported by the government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), including financing the operation cost of about \$110 thousands (JD 80 thousands) and sending Japanese experts for the course, according to a statement from the Japanese embassy.

The inauguration ceremony held at the Electric Training Centre in Zarqa was attended by Hajime Tanaka, Councillor of the Embassy of Japan in Jordan.

The course, which will be held once each year from 1992 to 1996, aims at providing the participants from Arab countries with an opportunity to upgrade relevant techniques and knowledge in the field of electric power. The course for this year will be conducted with the participation of 12 trainees from seven countries, namely, Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Oman and Yemen, and will be held from June 21 to October 8, 1992.

Japan has extended the cooperation to the Electric Training Centre of JEA, consisting of dispatching six Japanese experts, providing modern training equipment worth approximately \$4 million (JD 3 million) and training in Japan of 15 JEA personnel during 1987-1991. Japan also dispatched 2 young Japanese volunteers to JEA, one for Aqaba Steam Power Station during 1988-1990 and the other for Zarqa Steam Station during 1990-1992, the press release said.

Japan has so far offered a number of technical cooperation including the above-mentioned cooperation to Jordan amounting to over \$70 million (JD 50 million).

Mr. Tanaka addressed the ceremony, praised existing cooperation between the JEA and the Japanese agency and called for further efforts to promote cooperation between the two nations.

The director of JEA training centre said that the participants in the four-month course will attend theoretical classes and will be involved in intensive practical work at the workshops employing equipment provided by the Japanese agency.

The present training course, he said, is one of a series of training courses that will be held between 1992 and 1996 involving other participants from Jordan and other Arab states.

JEA Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafah told the ceremony that JEA will spare no effort towards promoting training standards. He thanked the Japanese agency for its efforts to help Jordan and the other Arab countries.

School of mosaics to be completed by year's end

MADABA (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Yanal Hikmat said Monday construction work of a school of mosaics in Madaba city will be finished by the end of this year.

He said after the school is opened, students will enroll for four years to receive a certificate in renovating and maintaining mosaic plates and floors.

The minister, who was inspecting work on the school project and the archaeological mosaics gallery project in Madaba, said work in the gallery project will end next year.

The minister said that the two projects are part of the ministry's efforts to preserve archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

He said Madaba was chosen to house the two projects because of its historical and archaeological significance and because it is believed by archaeologists to be a site where mosaics date back to the Byzantine era.

According to the minister, the two projects will cost about \$3 million. This year, the ministry has allocated JD 130,000 for the two projects, Mr. Hikmat added.

He said the U.S., Canada and Italy have contributed to the implementation of the two projects. The Italian government has contributed \$1 million, the U.S. \$225,000 through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Canadian government contributed JD 40,000, the minister added.

The Italian government has for long showed interest in helping Jordan restore archaeological sites.

In 1991, the Italian government extended financial and technical aid to restore and renovate the mosaics of Madaba's Apostles Church, which was discovered in 1967 by Italian archaeologists working in Jordan. The mosaics in the church were installed around the year 578 A.D.



Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif holds seminar on media's role in protecting consumers

Sharif urges press to help protect consumers from forgery, profiteers

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Monday urged the information media and the press to cooperate with the consumer protection society in a bid to protect consumers' interests through public awareness campaigns.

The growing needs of the public, coupled with the emergence of a diversity of industrial and manufactured goods, underline the need for the media to protect the public from manipulation of profiteering and forgery, said the minister at the opening of

a one-day seminar organised in cooperation with the Housing Bank to deal with the question of protection for consumers.

The minister called for media campaigns to provide protection for consumers and urged the public to avoid all forms of extravagance.

Mohammad Obeidat, the society president, outlined the role of the society and its activities in the course of protecting consumers. Mr. Obeidat, however, said that consumer should also shoulder a major responsibility in cutting down on spending and in

acting in a manner that would deter any malpractices and profiteering.

Other speakers included the director general of Radio Jordan, and a representative of Jordan Television. Both presented outlines about radio and television contribution towards spreading awareness among consumers.

The general discussion that took place at the meeting covered the role of the ministries of supply, health and education in providing protection for Jordanian consumers.

Seminar urges national strategy to incorporate returnees into economy

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabarti said that it is unknown how long instability will plague the Arab World. He said that while we evaluate the political, economic and social obstacles resulting from the Gulf war, we must keep in mind that we are living in a state of sanctions similar to a state of war.

In an opening speech Monday at a seminar entitled "Immigrant Returnees and Their Effect on Jordan," organised by the Ministry of Labour, the Queen Alia Fund, and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), at the Regency Palace Hotel, Mr. Kabarti said that the state of sanctions Jordan lives under has created situations it neither wanted nor planned for.

He added that although Jordan depends on importing workers, it also exports, resulting in the employment of many Jordanians in Gulf countries. Mr. Kabarti also said that although the return of 300,000 expatriates has hurt the country there is a positive side. "The question is not what Jordan can do for these returnees. It is what these returnees, as Jordanians, can do for Jordan," he said.

Addressing the opening session earlier, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said that the influx of the returnees and the consequences of the Gulf crisis created new challenges for Jordan at a time when the country was still

reeling from the world economic recession.

The consequences of the Gulf crisis on Jordan were so great that they upset the nation's economic restructuring programme, which was beginning to show signs of success, noted the princess, chairperson of the board of trustees of the Queen Alia Fund (QAF).

She added that all concerned authorities and the private and public sectors should re-examine the crisis and take steps to try to save the country from more negative effects.

Indeed, this seminar reflects Jordan's deep concern over the situation and its socio-economic and humanitarian impacts, noted the princess.

The princess called for serious efforts to be exerted on the part of all concerned in order to help incorporated the returnees into the national economy and to direct investment into income-generating projects. She thanked the ILO and the Ministry of Labour for their helping effort to organise this vital seminar.

Nabil Khouri, the regional representative of ILO, said that the flow of immigrant returnees started in the mid 80's as a result of the deteriorating economic situation in countries that employed Arab workers.

"By the beginning of the 90's, though," Dr. Khouri said, "the Gulf area witnessed an improved economic situation with the increase in oil prices, and the flourishing of economic projects, until the Gulf War broke out and affected Jordan with the return-

ing of 300,000 people from Kuwait and other Gulf countries, he said.

He added that, finding solutions for unemployment was the most important factor of the seminar. "Suggested solutions include vocational training and economic correction programmes," Dr. Khouri said, adding that the absorption of returnees in Jordan and defining future goals for this purpose were also important.

"It is necessary to outline national strategies to invest savings and to tackle new alternatives taking into consideration previous plans and future expectations," he said.

Dr. Khouri said that this seminar is considered as part of ILO projects in the Arab World, which continue to give technical and consultative assistance to such specialised seminars and exchanging experiences on various matters.

He added that this seminar comes at a time when the sudden flux of immigrant returnees caused economic and monetary strains on Jordan that will remain for a long time.

The three day seminar, which was opened under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, will include ten papers about the effects of immigrant returnees on Jordanian woman, the labour work force, unemployment, its reasons and suggested solutions to counteract it, returnees and absorbing them into the national economy, unemployment and vocational training in the economic reform programme.

Cabinet swears in two committees to prepare for by-elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Interior Monday took practical steps in the course of preparing for the by-elections that would be held on August 18 to choose two members for the Lower House of Parliament to replace deputies Ahmad Azaide and Nayef Al Hadid who passed away late June and early July respectively.

Two committees charged with preparing and supervising the by-elections were sworn in before the Minister of Interior Jawdat Al Shoul.

The Council of Ministers had decided to hold by-elections upon the recommendation of the interior minister and in accordance with article 17 of the election law.

Addressing the two committees at his office at the swearing ceremony, Mr. Shoul underlined the importance of cooperation and coordination to make the election process achieve success in accordance with the Jordanian laws and norms.

The coming by-elections will be conducted in a free and democratic atmosphere as was the general election held in 1989, noted the minister.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the committee to be in charge of the by-elections at the fourth constituency is to be headed by Hashem Abdullah Al Waked, assistant to the governor of Amman who will be assisted by two other officials.

Petra said that the second committee to be in charge of the election in the sixth constituency will be led by Mislak Tarawneh, district governor of Madaba, who will be assisted by two officials.

The interior minister said that the elections will be conducted in accordance with the final approved lists of voters as of last year. According to the eighth article of the constitution, the minister noted, the by-elections should be conducted within two months after parliament has in-

formed the government about the vacant seats.

We are under obligation by law to hold the by-elections before August 29, he said. According to the minister, the total number of voters in the fourth constituency is 35,834, who will cast ballots at 39 centres supervised by 75 sub-committees. The voters will be counted by 36 other sub-committees.

He said that the number of voters in the sixth constituency now stands at 33,874 who will cast ballots at 30 centres supervised by 33 committees.

Mr. Shoul said the district governor in each constituency is responsible for the by-elections and is charged with voter cards in his area.

The minister said that the head of a family can receive the voter cards for all members of his family and that a special register for the names of voters will be opened in each centre.



Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoul swears in committee in preparation for by-election

Annual student concert held

AMMAN (J.T.) — The annual student concert of the National Music Conservatory which is run by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) was held at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

The concert was directed by

Lina Tal of the NHF and included guitar playing, piano, and Arab music instruments by beginners and higher grade students of the national conservatory.

Established in 1986, the conservatory was designed to de-

velop the gifts of the young generation and to promote music playing in Jordan as a whole.

The conservatory now offers training in music playing to 200 students by 25 instructors.

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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptian Labour Federation to arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Egyptian Labour Federation will arrive in Amman Monday on a several-day visit to Jordan. The delegation which will be led by president of the Egyptian Labour Federation Sayyed Rashed will hold talks with the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions Secretary General and members of the federation's executive board. The talks will be dealt with bilateral relations between the two federations and ways of enhancing them.

ALU to meet with Jordanian counterpart

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Arab Labour Union (ALU) Hassan Jammam will arrive in Amman Monday on a several-day visit to Jordan. Mr. Jammam will meet with secretary general of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions for talks on Jordanian and Arab labour-related issues.

Mitterrand honours former ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — French President Francois Mitterrand has conferred upon Jordan's former ambassador to France Youssef Bouran the Legion D'honneur Medal of the Commander Order in appreciation of his efforts in enhancing relations between the two countries while in service.

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Peace through Jerusalem

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin's offer to come to Amman or go to Damascus and Beirut, and his invitation to the leaders of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to go to Jerusalem to discuss peace in the Middle East could be sincere but is certainly not the way to lasting peace in the region. For even if Rabin was truly sincere in his offer he need not go far from where he is now in order to make peace with the Arabs. Nor should he invite Arab leaders from afar. The first step the new Israeli premier should take is not certainly across the River Jordan; rather it should be into East Jerusalem and Gaza where Faisal Hussein, Haidar Abdul Shafi and their colleagues of Palestinian leaders reside. The core of the Middle East conflict is not hostility between Arabs at large and Israelis. It is between Israelis and Palestinians on the land of Palestine. When that conflict is resolved for the satisfaction of both peoples and with their mutual agreement and understanding Prime Minister Rabin or any other Israeli leader or citizen will not find difficulty in travelling to other Arab lands. Instead of inviting the leaders of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, the new leaders in Israel should get in touch with Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, who is the leader Rabin should get in touch with. It was Arafat who in fact on many occasions had expressed his desire to travel to Jerusalem and talk peace with Israeli leaders. Rabin and his colleagues should realise this time at this stage in their political career that their country's conflict with the Arabs is over Palestine and the rights of the Palestinian people. They should furthermore realise that from among the Palestinians only the PLO and Chairman Arafat can give them peace. Perhaps Rabin could even be more modest in his approach to peace-making and start by clearing the roads from the obstacles that successive Israeli governments have erected in the path of peace. How about, for example, announcing a formal freeze of Jewish settlements in occupied Arab lands? How about a pledge to exchange territories for peace when the shape of a settlement is agreed upon through negotiations? He could and should pull out his troops from Arab towns and villages and let Palestinians run their own affairs as a prelude to Palestinian elections and Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The new Israeli leaders should remember that the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Israel in 1977 did not bring peace to Israel, the Palestinians, or the Arabs. Only two weeks ago Rabin was saying he wanted to conclude agreement with Palestinians as soon as possible before pursuing peace on other Arab fronts. Today he seems to be switching his priorities, however. Is he confused, as his Likud opponents might say? Or is he trying to confuse and deceive spectators? Or might Rabin be trying to deceive the cosponsor of the peace process, the U.S., by outbidding everybody else with his rhetoric?

We do sincerely hope that Rabin is sincere and honest and we hope that soon he will sort his priorities and coordinate his steps and look closer for genuine solutions to a festering problem. When he does he will hear many voices welcoming those steps.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Monday commented on the King's meeting with the newly elected Jordanian Press Association board, noting the monarch's deep interest in the media and his keenness on reflecting Jordan's bright image through the Jordanian press. The daily said that the King had directed the association board towards diligent work, towards high performance and adherence to the country's aims of enhancing democracy in every field. The King made it clear that the responsibility of the Jordanian press is in upholding human rights and pursuing the course of democracy, said the daily. It said that King Hussein compared the Jordanian democratic process to a lit torch lighting the way for the other Arab countries and dissipating the darkness. The paper said that the Jordanian press and Jordanian journalists who have stood fast in the face of different temptations or corruption were bound to pursue the struggle in defence of the Arab causes and Arab peoples' rights with courage. The paper said that serving under the guidance of the wise leadership of King Hussein, the Jordanian press is bound to offer real service to the Arab Nation.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Monday urged the Arab parties involved in the peace process with Israel to exclude Egypt from the conferences noting that Egypt had already had its peace treaty with the Israelis. Tareq Masarweh said that coordination among the foreign ministers of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestine was of utmost importance at this stage and before the coming session in Rome, but there was no need to involve Egypt in any of the contacts with the Israelis. It is clear that the Americans are imposing Egypt on the other Arab parties in a bid to give Cairo credibility in the eyes of the Arab World as this perhaps is in Washington's interest, said the writer. Why should the other Arab countries help Washington to protect its interests at a time when the Arabs are getting nothing from the United States? he asked. It is clear that the Arab countries' interest is different from that of the United States, argued the writer. He said it is clear that the Americans are trying to give Egypt a heavier political weight by trying to force the other Arabs into consulting with Cairo on matters of destiny, added the writer. He said that Jordan, for its part, can serve no interests, except those of the Arab Nation, and therefore there is no justification for inviting the Egyptian foreign minister to the coming meetings of the four Arab parties.

The View From Fourth Circle

When politicians must become statemen

By Rami G. Khouri

The last two weeks have seen Israeli and Palestinian leaders engage in the sort of huffing and puffing that we should expect in the run-up to the next several rounds of peace talks. Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat both have to cover their political flanks to the right. They must maintain progress on the peace talks, while not appearing to give in to the enemy. If they appear soft or too conciliatory, they will suffer the political wrath of fearful and angry forces from the right. This reality should be accepted as an inevitable phase we have to pass through before the peace talks make any substantive progress. It will require putting up with some of the peculiar statements made by both Rabin and Arafat, who are acting as the experienced politicians they are. I use the word "peculiar" on purpose, much as I love and respect President Arafat and anticipate positive steps from Mr. Rabin.

Arafat's statement a few days ago to the effect that there were no real differences between Labour and Likud was well below the real political intelligence of the president of Palestine. To say, as he did, that Rabin and his party were the ones who started to settle the 1967 occupied territories and who tried to beat the Palestinians into ending the intifada, and thus were no different from Likud, strikes me as classic political flack-protection.

Arafat is worried about the strength of the Hamas and leftist-led opposition to the peace talks, and feels he has to assure his constituency that he is not selling out. Fair enough. But to harp back to what Labour and Rabin did in the past is a weak shot. The reality is that Labour and their expanded new constituency have learned that the policies of the past have failed. The Palestinians and Arabs in general must be more emphatic about challenging Labour to rise to the test of adopting new policies that respond to the opportunity for peace.

The meetings in Amman three weeks ago between the Palestinian negotiators and the PLO leadership were a masterful move that did precisely this. The Palestinians forced the Israelis to drop the illusion that the PLO was not involved in the peace talks, or that the Israeli government was not negotiating with the PLO. Arafat and the

negotiators needed to make that gesture to strengthen their political standing with the Palestinian people, many of whom were uncomfortable with the Palestinian leadership's apparent acquiescence in Israeli-American demands that the PLO remain on the sidelines at this stage.

There is a huge and very significant difference between Labour and Likud policies. The Labour Party will start freezing settlements and will accept returning lands to the Palestinians. They will not accept all Palestinian demands at once — but what negotiator in any similar bargaining situation would accept the enemy's demands all at once? The key to Labour's position is that it envisages launching a process of freezing settlements and accepting a Palestinian interim self-governing authority — a process that will inevitably lead to Palestinian sovereignty after years of transition and confidence-building on both sides.

We have to be honest and realise that the Israelis have changed in the same way that we have changed. To deal with the Labour Party on the basis of its policies of a decade ago would be as unfair and unrealistic as if the Israelis were to deal with the Palestinians and Arabs on the basis of our positions of a decade ago — when we rejected interim self-government, non-PLO negotiators, and other mechanisms that we accept today.

We have to appreciate that Rabin and Labour, however, have political pressures to deal with, just as do Arafat and the PLO. That's why Rabin makes the silly distinction between political and security settlements. He is trying to tell his constituency that he will start the process of withdrawal and coexistence with Palestinians without endangering the security of Israel.

He probably knows that the concept of "security" settlements is a major hoax, if not a joke. The settlements he refers to have nothing to do with Israel's security, which is threatened by internal economic stress, the political challenge of the intifada, and the anger of Arabs far away from Israel — Arabs who sent missiles crashing into Israeli cities last year while the "security" settlements looked like feeble and irrelevant anachronisms.

Rabin and Arafat are both acting like meo who know they have to come to terms with history, but who are trying to do so with the least possible domestic political damage. Therefore, it is best now to ignore most of their public statements, and to focus instead on the hard choices that must be made inside the negotiations. There is no doubt whatsoever about the willingness of majorities on both sides to make the short-term compromises necessary for long-term mutual justice and security. Otherwise, neither of them would be in power, and the negotiating process would not be at its present pivotal stage.

The Israelis are obsessed with security and acceptance in the region, and the Palestinians/Arabs are equally obsessed with national rights and the containment of Israeli-Zionist territorial designs. Those goals can be reconciled, but not in one sudden move. They will require a slow and gradual transition by which both sides achieve some of their aims, simultaneously give in to the other's demands, and test the seriousness of the enemy. Such moves will not take place in the public media. Rather, public statements today by both sides are designed to allay the concerns of constituencies that are still hesitant and even fearful of moving forward on the basis of mutual concessions.

It would be more useful now for leaders on both sides to focus on the positive potential that could emerge from a successful peace process. Instead of pandering to the fears of vocal minorities, leaderships would be better advised to reinforce the convictions and hopes of their majorities. In other words, this is the moment to pull away from the rigid constraints and maximalist fantasies of the past, and to embrace the promise of a future that assures both sides their rights and security.

Here is where individual men and women are put to the test of genuine leadership. Both the Israelis and the Palestinians feel confident that their political leaderships will not sell out for peace at any price. The leaderships should now reciprocate their people's trust by moving quickly to deal with the hard issues at hand. This is the moment when the Middle East needs less posturing by politicians, and more dynamism by statemen. © / 1992

'Collaborators' in occupied Palestinian territories

By Mouin Rabbani

ONE of the few aspects of the popular uprising in the occupied territories which continues to generate international publicity is the killing of collaborators by nationalist militants. Often, the substantive issues which motivate such attacks are ignored by commentators. Rather than placing the killings in their proper context, the phenomenon has been reduced to the deceptively accurate observation that "Arabs are killing Arabs" and as such used to justify Israeli policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Collaborator" is an ugly word which reveals an ugly reality of treason and violence few would condone or accept. Indeed, people in Europe and its former colonies who have experienced foreign rule often save their bitterest memories not for the alien soldier, who ultimately behaved as could only be expected, but for the compatriot who betrayed his own community to serve the occupier. In order to deflect such memories among large parts of the world's population, there are therefore no "collaborators" to be found in the statements of Israeli officials regarding this issue. Rather, one encounters only benign and innocent individuals who are brutally murdered by "terrorists" for their "suspected cooperation with the authorities."

In reality, however, Israel has an established record of cultivating collaborators that goes back to the early days of the Zionist movement and is most visibly manifest today in southern Lebanon, where it has created and maintained a surrogate militia, the South Lebanon Army, as a virtual appendage of the Israeli military. As various reports by Amnesty International, Middle East Watch and other human rights organisations confirm, the SLA in conjunction with Israel has engaged in the most appalling forms of torture, murder and repression, and regularly launches indiscriminate artillery barrages against Lebanese villages suspected of harbouring guerrillas opposed to Israel's presence on their soil.

Collaborators in steady supply

In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the disintegration of the Palestinian socio-economic infrastructure under Israeli rule, in conjunction with the vast apparatus of control established by the military government, has ensured

a steady supply of collaborators since 1967. While many Palestinians who collaborate come from criminal backgrounds and render their services in return for permission to continue their illicit activities, or are enticed by material incentives, many if not most others are initially pressed into service by various methods of official coercion.

At its most blatant, coercion entails the notorious phenomenon of *Isqat*, which connotes moral entrapment. Typically, young and uneducated single Palestinians are lured into sexually compromising positions, photographed, and then informed that if they do not collaborate the pictures will be circulated among their relatives and communities. Often, and particularly with women, the potential social consequences are severe enough to make the threat credible. In other cases, people have been entrapped with drugs and other practices considered immoral by Palestinian society.

Among the best-known examples of *Isqat* is that contained in the clandestinely published *Ad-Dahiyat* (The Victim Confesses), smuggled copies of which have become required reading for Palestinian youths in Israeli prisons. The book opens with the case of a student active in nationalist politics in the West Bank town of Jenin, who is offered a drugged cup of coffee while at the hairdressers, photographed in sexually compromising position, and then ordered to collaborate. Unwilling to comply but equally unable to face the social consequences of the predicament, she decides to take her own life. When an investigation is launched into the tragedy by other activists, the trail that begins with her suicide note eventually leads to Mazin Al Fahma, a Palestinian born into indescribable poverty who, as a result of careful grooming by the security forces has been active in their service since early adolescence. Most of *Ad-Dahiyat* is devoted to Fahma's lengthy confession, including detailed descriptions of how he came to collaborate and his *modus operandi*, as told to his Palestinian captors who subsequently killed him.

Forms of coercion

Another form of coercion occurs in the prison system, where, as confirmed most recently in a rare public statement by the International Committee of

the Red Cross, detainees are systematically tortured during interrogation. Routinely, detainees are threatened with severe charges and long prison terms, and then offered the prospect of modest charges and an early release if they collaborate. In other instances, prison officials threaten to punish a detainee's family, for example by demolishing their home or arresting close relatives, if collaboration is not forthcoming. As with *Isqat*, sexual harassment plays a prominent part: it is well documented that detainees are frequently threatened with rape, directed either against themselves or family members (particularly unmarried sisters). As with so many practices, such threats only have to be carried out once — if at all — to become universally credible.

A more subtle form of coercion takes place in the offices of the military government. In the occupied Palestinian territories, any activity of even marginal significance requires a permit from the military authorities. Thus, according to the Palestinian human rights organisation Al Haq, persons applying for permission to send a child abroad for medical treatment, obtain family reunification or build an extra room for their home are routinely told that approval is contingent on their willingness to collaborate. Palestinian lawyers concur, stating that "the majority of the few successful applications (for family reunification) are granted to those who agree to collaborate."

What collaboration involves

Regardless of their specific background, however, most collaborators gradually become accustomed to their new roles and, more importantly, come to relish the power it offers.

Collaboration itself takes a variety of forms. Typically, it involves little more than monitoring, particularly of one's neighbours' political views, affiliations and activities, and periodic reporting to a handler in the military or intelligence service. The more experienced informers operate in prisons and detention centres as *asafir* (stool-pigeons), concealing personal histories of nationalist achievement in order to extract confessions from falsely secure detainees or, outside prison, join clandestine organisations in order to inform on their members. At the next level, collaborators participate in the torture of prisoners, the entrapment of fellow residents, the location and

identification of fugitives and the exacerbation of social and political disputes in their home communities.

The more successful collaborators are given the task of mediating Israeli rule. They dispense permits, help organise fraudulent land deals to facilitate Israeli settlement and generally assume positions of authority by official appointment. Such persons are well known to the public, as their effectiveness is dependent on their recognition. Others, however, must operate covertly and are therefore often difficult to identify. Nevertheless, the possession of weapons usually confirms the status of their owner because the Palestinians have been so thoroughly disarmed.

Since 1967, collaborators have been crucial to Israeli control in the territories. Either directly or indirectly, they have also been responsible for many of the worst abuses meted out by the military. Throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, stories abound of betrayal, violence, vandalism and humiliation at the hands of collaborators. Heavily armed, they have also been responsible for a large number of casualties among the civilian population. According to Al Haq, for example, collaborators were directly responsible for the killing of at least seven people, including a boy of five, a mother of ten children and a man in his 70s, during the first two years of the uprising. Numerous others were injured during this period.

Collaborators and the intifada

The popular uprising which began in December 1987 initially caused much of Israel's collaborator network to unravel. During the early months of the *intifada*, large numbers of collaborators publicly confessed their activities and recanted, while many others were identified and exposed by the nationalist *Quwa Darbe* ("Strike Force"). This was a crucial achievement for the uprising, because Israel effectively lost its eyes and ears in the territories. To further this gain, the remaining collaborators were ordered to either repent or leave their homes. If they did not, their property was attacked and, in particularly threatening cases, several were killed.

By early 1989, however, collaborators were being killed with increasing regularity. It became apparent that Israel was reconstructing its network with some

success (and a lot of weapons), and that collaborators were playing an increasingly prominent role in "pointing" Israeli repression while also engaging in violence themselves. At the same time, it also became apparent that a system of underground revolutionary courts had begun to function. There is considerable evidence to indicate that, in general targets were carefully chosen, interrogated, thoroughly confirmed, repeatedly warned that their physical safety was at risk, and only "tried" and executed as a last resort. Furthermore, in Ketzio military detention centre in the Negev, where many collaborators have been killed, it is reported that only those responsible for the killing of a Palestinian (directly or indirectly) are put to death. Significantly, as a high-ranking Israeli military official admitted to the *Jerusalem Post*, "the assassinations usually hit right on target."

The killings, however, also created a momentum of their own. New activist groups, such as the Black Panthers and Red Eagles in Nablus and the Masked Lions in Ramallah, began to hunt down collaborators (and at times suspected collaborators) and kill them at the first opportunity without warning. In rarer cases, it appears that innocent persons have been victimised as a result of deliberately wrongful accusations of collaboration stemming from vendettas unrelated to the uprising. This is a game the security forces have learned to play as well. In a leaflet smuggled out of Megiddo prison in 1990, activists reported on their interrogation of a collaborator who stated to them that on several occasions he had been ordered to implicate groups of "collaborators" (by means of slogans painted on walls) which included the names of several already exposed but also others with no relationship to the security forces.

The debate in society

The subject of collaborators and how to confront them has been hotly debated within the Palestinian community. While some oppose the death penalty on principle, the majority either supports the elimination of collaborators by any means necessary or at least accepts that in a situation fraught with anger and devoid of police, courts, prisons and other instruments of legal control, execution becomes a necessary evil. At the same time

most Palestinians are also wary of the negative repercussions the campaign against collaborators can have if it spins out of control, as on occasions it clearly has. They are fiercely critical of the "mistakes" which have been committed, and generally disapprove of killing where it appears that "immoral conduct" (particularly drug-dealing and prostitution) rather than actual collaboration formed the rationale. Evidence of torture during the interrogation of collaborators has also surfaced, leading to further questions about the type of society which might be emerging. Significantly, many Palestinians also feel that efforts should be concentrated on eliminating "big" collaborators while those younger and less involved should be shown mercy. As the uprising continues, much will hinge on the preservation of a chain of accountability in the face of mass detentions which have deprived the nationalist movement of its more experienced and far-sighted cadres.

On several occasions Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories, most recently Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, have publicly called for the suspension of killings against collaborators. Others, while agreeing that the irregularities need to be more forcefully addressed, find the idea of Israeli agents being left in peace unacceptable. All Palestinians, however, hold Israel responsible for the dilemma. Having elected to generate collaborators, arm them to the teeth and maintain them in circumstances of great danger to their own and their communities' lives, it is held solely accountable for the consequences.

Discussion of collaborators in the occupied territories should be removed from the "Arab kills Arab" vacuum to which it has been consigned and proceed from the realisation that the reproduction and elimination of collaborators has been part and parcel of every struggle for freedom from colonial rule. Put in proper perspective, the current situation forms an indictment rather than justification for Israeli rule, and similarly allows for a more serious evaluation of the problem.

Mouin Rabbani is a PhD candidate in Middle East History at the University of Durham and is currently completing a book on the occupied territories. His article is reprinted from the London-based *Middle East International*.

Dark horse to run against Romania's Ilescu in polls

By Adrian Dascalu
Reuter

BUCHAREST — Romania's opposition is pitting an unknown university professor against President Ion Ilescu in elections in September.

Emil Constantinescu, 53-year-old rector of Bucharest University, is the candidate of the main opposition group, the 14-party Democratic Convention (DC).

"Constantinescu is not exactly the Kennedy type but he might become Romania's Havel," said one Romanian analyst, referring to Czechoslovakia's President Vaclav Havel.

Slim, softly-spoken and polite, Mr. Constantinescu's image is the antithesis of the professional politician.

The DC's decision to select him as presidential challenger surprised many Romanians who doubt his abilities against the politically astute Ilescu, a close associate of the late communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Mr. Constantinescu — Romania's leading geologist — was among the few teachers who joined students in the December 1989 street protests which led to the overthrow and execution of Ceausescu. He also took part in an anti-government rally which was crushed by pro-Ilescu miners in June 1990.

A congress of the left-wing Democratic National Salvation Front (DNSF) party which backs Ilescu for reelection said the DC's choice was good news.

The DNSF is the largest party

in the senate and gaining ground in the lower chamber. Most DNSF followers are members of the former communist elite who have held onto senior posts.

Mr. Constantinescu says his election campaign will focus mainly on political, social and economic issues.

"Change is going to be the key-word of my campaign," he said, adding that he would travel the country "to meet people and tell them we need to change everything."

"I think most Romanians who suffer now will understand that I share their exasperation and desire for a change and that I will fight for it," Mr. Constantinescu told Reuters.

"I think I represent what you would call the normality of this

nation," he said.

With less than three months before the September 27 poll the DC will have to work hard to make Mr. Constantinescu known to the public.

"Constantinescu? Never heard of him..." was a typical street reaction to his candidature. "Isn't he one of the old communists?" asked a shopkeeper.

"The DC committed political harakiri by designating Constantinescu," said the independent weekly Express.

However, DC leader Corneliu Coposu insists Mr. Constantinescu is the right person to challenge Mr. Ilescu.

An opinion poll by the independent Marketing and Polling

Institute showed Mr. Ilescu would win only 30 per cent of the vote, a dramatic fall from the landslide 85.7 per cent he won when he was elected president in May 1990.

Romania has suffered several bouts of political violence since the 1990 polls and critics blame the turmoil on Mr. Ilescu.

"There are no dark corners in my life and consequently no political blackmail will be possible," said Mr. Constantinescu.

Mr. Constantinescu was born in the town of Tighina, now in the conflict-torn former Soviet republic of Moldova, parts of which Moscow forcibly annexed from Romania under a secret Soviet-Nazi pact in 1940.

The DC hopes that Mr. Constantinescu, if elected, will hasten Romania's reunification. Critics of Mr. Ilescu say he is soft on the issue.

The DC will use Mr. Constantinescu's former membership of the Communist Party to fend off accusations by Mr. Ilescu's backers that the DC intends to purge Romania's four million former communists, party sources say.

The DC captured a third of the votes in local government elections four months ago and hopes for an even larger share in parliamentary elections, also due on September 27.

"But this does not mean I have to relax now and think I'm a winner," Mr. Constantinescu said.

Over-equipped and under-utilised centre could greatly contribute to welfare

By Cosima Hadidi
Special to the Jordan Times

The building is spacious, light, furnished with the latest state-of-the-art laboratory and audio-visual equipment and hopelessly under utilised.

Judging by the quality of its equipment, the qualifications of its technical staff, and the importance of its function, the Occupational Safety and Health Institute (OSHI) should be one of the best-known and best-used facilities in the country. But the institute suffers from the Jordanian industry's lack of interest in safety precautions and from administrative obstacles that make it impossible for it to operate on a full level.

OSHI was established in 1983 to improve the safety conditions in the Jordanian workplace and to reduce the levels of industrial accidents, based upon the principle that modern industry must be safe if it is to be competitive. To achieve its goals, the institute holds safety training courses for organisations, conducts field studies on workplace conditions, and provides consultancy and educational services.

The institute also compiles statistics on injuries and illness, classifying them according to their types and causes. In 1991,

a total of 9,451 such cases were reported, 64 of which were fatal. As a result, 417,121 work hours were lost, causing substantial financial losses to the employers and the country as a whole. In a 1989 study by the Social Security Corporation, it was found that the direct and indirect costs resulting from occupational injury and illness in the previous decade amounted to more than JD 20 million. "Most of these costs could have been avoided if the basic safety measures and precautions issued by the Ministry of Health had been followed," said Ahmad Masri, director of the institute. "However, not even large corporations and institutions abide by them." For example, industries are required to have a part-time safety officer, if they employ 20 to 99 workers, and a full-time safety officer for 100 workers or more. OSHI offers safety training courses and recently held a special two-month course for unemployed engineers training them in all aspects of basic workplace safety, which qualified them as safety officers. Yet these 100 engineers have not been hired and the industry is generally not willing to abide by the regulation of hiring safety officers, said Mr. Masri, adding that this indifference to measures of safety and a lack of reinforcement

ment of them by the authorities is the major reason OSHI is not operating at its full capacity.

A second reason is the fact that OSHI is not an independent entity, but is part of the Vocational Training Corporation and thus has no authority. "We do not have the authority to contact industries on our own; but have to direct all our correspondence through the administration of the Vocational Training Corporation; this sometimes causes delays of two to three weeks making us seem unprofessional and unreliable," said Mr. Masri.

At the same time the institute suffers from a lack of specialised staff to fully utilise all its facilities. "One reason for this is that

our employees are not offered any incentives and benefits, such as adequate travel allowances for field visits or a danger allowance when they are exposed to dangerous substances in factories," said Mr. Masri.

Another major problem OSHI has to deal with is the lack of funding for research and studies said Mr. Abu Hamad, industrial hygienist and safety engineer. "It is also crucial for us to attend international safety conferences and symposia to keep up-to-date on current standards and developments in the field, but we are not given a budget for that either," he said.

The institute plans to undertake several important studies,

but currently lacks the funding for them. One of these is a study on anthropometric measurements of Jordanian citizens. "We would like to conduct a survey of 36 different measurements of the bodies of Jordanians. This can be of tremendous benefit to the industry, especially for manufacturing clothes and shoes and for the import of personal protective equipment," said Mr. Masri. Jordan still imports clothes, shoes, protective equipment and even furniture which do not match the size requirements of the Jordanian people, causing losses to the industry.

Another project is to set up a laboratory for testing protective equipment such as goggles, hard hats, safety clothes, and the like.

"We don't know whether the safety equipment that is imported to Jordan is up to international safety standards, especially if it is low-cost equipment produced by dubious manufacturers," said Mr. Abu Hamad.

Given its current limitations, the institute makes the best use of its possibilities and trained 405 individuals in 1991 in 15 training courses. OSHI also conducted several field studies and consultancy projects.

The institute is equipped with the latest in measuring and ana-

lysing equipment for occupational hazards and environment and contains a comprehensive information centre as well as an audio-visual centre which produces films on occupational safety. "We film the seminars conducted at the institute and the results of field studies, thus producing an archive based upon the Jordanian situation and relevant to Jordanian industries and organisations," said Nimr Hamad, director of the audio-visual department.

Mr. Abu Hamad said that

several visiting delegations were impressed by the facilities of the institute and suggested it should be made regional. But before that some basic changes should be made first. "We hope right now to receive some support to make our institute independent and to give it its proper place in the Jordanian system by giving it the authority to act on its own behalf. If we become a regional centre we could hire more staff and expand our services to greater benefit Jordan and the region as a whole," said Mr. Masri.



Staff at the Occupational Safety and Health Institute testing a piece of equipment on its premises

Convention city has it all

By Rick Hampson
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Perception: You can't afford to live, die or visit New York.

Reality: Real estate is still in a slump. Restaurants have cut prices. The Staten Island ferry is only 50 cents — round trip.

The thing the Democrats should understand about New York prices is that there are so many of them. You can buy earrings from Harry Winston of Fifth Avenue for a million bucks, or you can buy them from the guy on the sidewalk at Sixth Avenue and 31st for 69 cents.

There's even a price range at The Quilted Giraffe. The restaurant that claims to be the city's most expensive is reducing its prix fixe lunch from \$45 to \$19.92 during next week's Democratic national convention.

For those who come at night, however, the tab is still \$75 with a serving of caviar or Kobe beef \$50 extra.

And no, that does not include tip, tax or alcoholic beverage.

How about a hamburger? A hand-scrubbed sign at O'Donnell's, a saloon near the bus terminal, advertises the "recession special." A cheeseburger deluxe with fries for \$4.99. The famous "21 burger" at the famous 21 Club is \$21.50 at lunch, and \$24 after the sun goes down.

A glass of Remy Martin Louis XIII cognac, imprisoned gangster John Gotti's favourite after-dinner drink, costs \$75 at most East Side restaurants, and \$100 at The Quilted Giraffe.

The Waldorf-Astoria's seven-room presidential suite goes for \$4,000 a night, not including the city's infamous 21.25 per cent hotel tax. The suite, 35-A, has a two-toned marble foyer and a living room with a 4.5-metre ceiling.

Sheraton spent \$100 million refurbishing the elegant old St. Regis Hotel, but that didn't cover the street outside. On a recent morning, doormen in top hats and tails watched workers in T-shirts and hard hats rip up 55th Street at 8 o'clock — a nice, clear wake-up call for guests paying

\$350 a night. Unless you live in Paris or Tokyo, you may be surprised by the prices at places like:

— Harry Winston, which is offering a diamond encrusted whistle (for calling cabs, perhaps) for \$6,000 and a set of emerald and diamond drop earrings for \$1 million.

— Helene Arpels on Park Avenue, which sells ostrich skin loafers for \$1,350 and crocodile ones for \$2,500.

— Fendi, a three-floor Roman palazzo on Fifth Avenue with sable coats for around \$200,000. Meanwhile, you're paying \$9.50 for an hour's parking at a typical midtown garage, not including the city's infamous 18.25 per cent parking tax.

You want a bargain? That's in the mind of the beholder. Here are a few "best bets" from New York magazine: \$150 for a striped cotton shirt at Paul Smith on Fifth; \$76.50 for a canvas-and-leather belt at Paul Stuart on Madison; \$95 for a Chavet silk tie at Bergdorf Goodman's men's store.

A lot for a tie, perhaps, but the store does have its own putting green on the second floor.

For \$1.25 you can ride the train from the northern tip of Manhattan to the Atlantic Ocean in Queens, a trip of more than 48 kilometres and about two hours.

At Natalino, a small restaurant on 78th Street, the Davi family serves a delicious plate of pasta for about \$8. And if you get some sauce on your silk tie, tiecrafters on East 27th Street will get in on it: \$4, even if they have to open the back, release the stitching and then reweave it.

For 65 cents you can get a hot one at H-and-H Bagels on Broadway. And \$1 to that and a slice of pizza is yours at famous Famiglia on the same street. Work it off with a rowboat ride in Central Park for \$8 an hour (plus a refundable \$20 deposit).

Deals also can be had on real estate. But not if you want a two-bedroom penthouse overlooking Central Park. One recently sold for \$6.5 million — even though it's small, it needs work and Joan Crawford used to live there.

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 12:00 - 15:30
 18:30 - Midnight
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Special Chinese Foods
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Nightly At Hotel's Bar
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Financial Markets

By co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
10/7/1992	13/7/1992	13/7/1992
sterling Pound	1.9225	1.9229
Deutsche Mark	1.8945	1.8955
Swiss Franc	1.3530	1.3478
French Franc	5.0415	4.9987
Japanese Yen	125.13	125.38
European Currency Unit	1.3681	1.3771

1992 For 8111
1992 For 8111

Currency	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	12 Month
U.S. Dollar	3.37	3.43	3.50	3.68
Sterling Pound	10.00	9.95	9.75	9.75
Deutsche Mark	9.62	9.62	9.62	9.62
Swiss Franc	8.62	8.68	8.68	8.56
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JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE
TELEPHONE: 460170 / 463170
AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 13/07/1992

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	3,503	2,950	2,970	2,970
JORDAN KIBANAT BANK	4,465	1,890	1,890	1,890
THE JORDANIAN BANK	1,560	2,500	2,500	2,500
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	19,110	2,130	2,100	2,090
AMMAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	3,074	1,920	2,000	2,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	9,328	2,760	2,750	2,850
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2,492	3,120	3,130	3,110
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	21,242	1,170	1,170	1,170
AMMAN INVESTMENT	1,171	1,090	1,050	1,090
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	17,168	2,040	2,050	2,040
BANK OF JORDAN	2,474	2,860	2,850	2,860
AL-WATAN AL-JABALI INSURANCE	749	14,250	14,350	14,250
JORDAN PRIME INSURANCE	7,591	2,430	2,470	2,470
AMMAN ASEA INSURANCE	715	1,440	1,430	1,430
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	1,560	3,230	3,200	3,200
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	946	3,150	3,150	3,150
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	3,132	3,280	3,280	3,280
AMMAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	479	4,000	4,000	4,000
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	14,630	1,240	1,330	1,250
JORDAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	58	0,650	0,650	0,650
UNITED HILAR EAST & CONDORES HOTELS	28,925	1,570	1,540	1,540
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	10,732	0,280	0,270	0,250
HOUSING, REPT., BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	6,074	0,930	0,950	1,000
PAPER INDUSTRIES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	6,904	0,650	0,650	0,650
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	4,486	0,690	0,640	0,690
JORDAN KIBANAT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	1,170	1,120	1,170	1,170
AMMAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	24,225	1,520	1,520	1,520
JORDAN BANK	6,631	2,450	2,450	2,450
THE PUBLIC WORKING	725	2,350	2,350	2,350
AMMAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	68,221	0,700	0,700	0,700
AMMAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	27,634	10,100	10,040	9,970
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	13,309	6,620	6,650	6,750
AMMAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	22,600	21,000	21,000	22,000
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	6,624	4,650	4,670	4,540
AMMAN DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	43,850	6,620	6,650	6,650
INDUSTRIAL PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	16,250	3,750	2,750	3,750
JORDAN WASTED MILLS	12,800	6,200	6,400	6,100
JORDAN CERAMIC TILES	2,825	4,750	4,700	4,700
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	2,042	0,750	0,780	0,780
AMMAN CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	68,043	2,030	3,030	2,070
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	2,150	0,800	0,800	0,580
AMMAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	46,459	4,400	4,160	4,050
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	12,993	12,400	12,400	12,400
WOLLEN INDUSTRIES	720	1,440	1,600	1,600
SPINNING & WEAVING	20,168	3,100	3,050	2,090
NATIONAL CASH & WIRE MANUFACTURING	20,426	6,650	6,600	6,690
JORDAN SULFO-CHEMICALS	6,542	3,600	2,480	2,460
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	21,974	1,240	1,250	1,250
JORDAN CEMENTCO. INDUSTRIES	866	1,400	1,750	1,750
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	12,916	0,670	0,670	0,680
UNIVERSAL CEMENT INDUSTRIES	62,756	6,120	6,120	6,120
AMMAN INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	16,177	2,170	2,170	2,150
JORDAN PETROLEUM SYSTEMS	13,482	6,480	6,440	6,420
GRAND TOTAL	802,081			

French planes hit entering Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Agencies) — A U.N. official Monday warned Western governments of the danger of flying aid into besieged Sarajevo after three French relief planes were hit by small arms fire.

The aircraft were hit last Tuesday, Friday and Sunday on final approaches to the Sarajevo Airport, reopened by U.N. peacekeepers on June 29, said Maj. Gen. Lewis MacKenzie, the local U.N. commander.

Gen. MacKenzie said he had informed governments sending aid of the dangers of landing at the airport, but all 17 scheduled flights carrying 207 tonnes of food landed Sunday and another 17 were expected Monday.

"It is up to the governments whether to send the planes and up to the pilots whether to land," he said. The aircraft were hit by small-caliber bullets. All were able to land without problems.

The United States and several European countries have flown in relief.

France announced Monday it was postponing sending nine military helicopters pledged to the United Nations in Sarajevo. It was unclear whether the postponement was linked to the shootings.

A U.N. military observer was wounded late Sunday near Velika Kladusa in northern Bosnia when his jeep ran over an anti-tank mine, Croatian defence officials said.

Maj. John Brian, 39, of New Zealand suffered serious leg injuries but was out of danger, hospital officials in the Croatian city of Karlovac said.

U.N. civil affairs officer Mik Magnusson hoped a planned airlift to seriously ill Sarajevans would begin Monday with the evacuation of Senada Agic. The 14-month-old girl was born with a heart defect after Sarajevo's siege began.

Heavy fighting subsided shortly after midnight, U.N. officials said. Serbian forces still had the eastern town of Gorazde surrounded.

In the beleaguered capital, blasts of mortar and anti-aircraft fire echoed overnight around the suburbs of Dobrinja, Butmir, Ilidza and Stup in the west, and in the city centre, the officials said. Some heavier artillery fire was also heard.

Clashes were fierce on Grozni Hill, northeast of the city.

U.N. officials Sunday managed to relieve briefly a 71-day siege of Dobrinja, sending 12 trucks guarded by U.N. armoured cars with more than 100 tonnes of food through Serbian lines into the suburb.

Food is now getting through to 80 per cent of Sarajevo residents, though still not daily, said Peter Kessler, an official of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Bosnia's Muslims are bearing the brunt of a relentless Serb onslaught. Bodies littered the

streets of the Muslim-held town of Gorazde Sunday, and a mainly Muslim suburb of the capital, Sarajevo, was spared shelling for only six hours for a hurried delivery of U.N. aid.

Serb forces pounded Gorazde from the air and with tanks. Bosnian officials said Sunday. Houses were ablaze and corpses were strewn in the streets, according to Enes Musovic, a Bosnian television journalist in the town, about 30 miles (48 kilometres) south of Sarajevo.

In fighting elsewhere, Muslim and Croat forces were reported in retreat as Serb troops claimed to capture two strategic towns in the north and advance in Herzegovina to the south.

Western nations stepped up pressure on the Serbs by agreeing to send eight warships to the Adriatic to monitor compliance with the U.N. trade embargo on Yugoslavia, which now contains only Serbia and Montenegro.

The vessels are not authorised to blockade the coast.

Franjo Tudjman, president of Croatia, on Sunday backed Bosnia's call for an immediate session of the U.N. Security Council to approve military intervention in the former Yugoslavia.

The latest Serb assaults came less than 24 hours after Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic renewed his promise to rein in his troops. On Friday, Yugoslavia's prime minister-designate, Milan Panic, promised world leaders in Helsinki, Finland, that he would end the bloodshed in Bosnia.

Maj. Dervo Harbinja, a senior Bosnian defence official, said up to 400 artillery shells were falling daily on Gorazde, and predicted the defenders could hold out no more than a week.

The Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported that Serb military retook Fortica Hill overlooking Herzegovina's regional capital, Mostar.

Tanjug also said that Odzak and Gradacka, two northern towns near Croatia, fell to Serb forces. If confirmed, the gains would give the Serbs control of a swath of land, known as Posavina, that links Serb regions in northwestern Bosnia and parts of neighbouring Croatia to Serbia.

Bosnian officials denied the Serb claims. But Croatian television said Croat and Muslim troops in Posavina were withdrawing to "reserve positions" and thousands of Muslims were fleeing.

In New York, United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Sunday asked the Security Council for another 500 peacekeepers at Sarajevo Airport to get supplies to the city's 300,000 residents, but warned the effort could collapse if fighting did not stop.

"The Sarajevo Airport operation is based upon foundations of the utmost fragility (and) continues to bang by a slender thread," he said in a report to the council.

ANC has muscle to force faster reform — Mandela

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nelson Mandela said in remarks published Monday the ANC had the muscle to force the government to speed up reform but a return to guerrilla war could be an option if negotiation failed.

"There is no question of abandoning peaceful talks — generally and CODESA (the Convention for a Democratic South Africa) in particular," Mr. Mandela told the Black Sowetan newspaper in an interview. "But CODESA will not meet until the government is prepared to negotiate in good faith."

The breakdown of the multi-party CODESA talks last month plunged South Africa into its worst crisis since President F.W. de Klerk began dismantling apartheid two years ago.

"Whether armed action would be returned to is going to depend on future developments," the African National Congress president said.

"If the ANC returned to the armed struggle then history would be repeated, because we are not prepared to sit back and fold our arms."

"But we hope that will never occur, because we believe that we have the muscle, without resorting to violence, to induce the government to negotiate in good faith."

The ANC suspended its 30-year armed struggle against white domination in August 1990 as part of its preparations for the talks on ending 300 years of white minority rule.

The ANC says it will resume talks only if de Klerk acts decisively to meet its demands, including prosecution of security force officers allegedly involved in violence and faster moves to introduce all-race interim government.

The movement launched an open-ended campaign of strikes, sit-ins, marches and rallies on June 16 to pressure Pretoria to hasten the enfranchisement of the 5-1 black majority.

Mandela said the ANC was convinced the talks were "the way to a democratic South Africa."

"There are two ways of addressing problems: There is one that



Nelson Mandela

includes persuasion, discussion, criticism. We are busy with that and that is what we believe in."

On Wednesday government and ANC leaders are due to address an urgent U.N. Security Council session on spiralling violence.

Mandela reiterated he would like international peacekeepers stationed in unrest areas, but added: "Short of that, we would like a mission, goodwill missions, to monitor the situation here in the country."

Police said at least 10 blacks, including two policemen hacked and stoned to death, were killed at the weekend in townships around the country.

The ANC said Monday 60 of its members were arrested and five injured in an overnight police swoop on the home of a member of its military wing who led last week in controversial circumstances when a hand grenade exploded.

Local ANC officials said police ransacked the house of George Mashele, in Vosloorus township near Johannesburg, and detained the activists mainly from the group's Youth League.

Police said they had no immediate information. The police and the ANC blame each other for Mashele's death last Tuesday.

The ANC has repeatedly accused police of harassment.

Foreign Minister Fik Botha left Sunday for New York, saying he hoped for pressure on the ANC to resume talks.

COLUMN

Stars turn out to fete Kennedys on convention eve

NEW YORK (R) — A memorial reception for Robert F. Kennedy turned into the Democratic convention's most star-studded party as more than 300 movie stars and other celebrities joined the Kennedy family in remembering him. Tickets were a hot commodity for the ceremony at New York Mayor David Dinkins' home because of a guest list that included actors Warren Beatty, Annette Bening, Carol Channing, Glen Close, and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Writers Norman Mailer and Art Buchwald, movie and music mogul David Geffen, former Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern and nearly the entire Kennedy clan, including Senator Ted Kennedy and his new wife Vicki, also showed up. The party celebrated the 25th anniversary of Bobby Kennedy's campaign for the presidency, and the mood among the partygoers was upbeat for this year's Democratic ticket of Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton and Senator Albert Gore. "It looks awfully good," said singer Judy Collins. "I'm excited about the convention and the ticket. I'm excited to be part of this fabulous week." Actress Glenn Close, when asked if she was a supporter of Democratic candidate Bill Clinton, gave a thumbs up sign and said, "Yes, I am." Schwarzenegger, a devout Republican, was at the reception because his wife Maria Shriver is a Kennedy relative. The movie musician, an ardent supporter of President George Bush, only smiled when asked how he felt about being surrounded by Democrats.

Americans, Swiss win big global air race

CANNES, France (AP) — American and Swiss pilots flew to victory in an unprecedented round-the-world race dogged by language barriers, lack of runways and the threat of being shot down by Russian warplanes. "I don't know what I'll do now. It's going to be hard to get back into normal life," said winner Robert Wahl, 64, an insurance broker from Rochester, New York, who took up flying six years ago. Wahl and co-pilot Steven Nagorny, 39, led the 21-plane piston-engine class in much of the three-week race in Wahl's single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza, the Spirit of Rochester. They caught a favourable tailwind to stretch a lead of two minutes to an hour ahead of the mother-daughter team of Marion Jayne and Nancy Palozola of Petaluma, California, on the final 100-leg from Nuuk, Greenland, landing in this rivera resort at Dava, Harlon Nain of Bellevue, Nebraska, and Paul Hamer of Omaha were third, disappointed to have lost but proud of community fund-raising efforts — like \$50 donated by schoolchildren — that put them aloft. In the six-plane turbo-prop category, Bruno Kepler and Nicolas Poncet of Switzerland in a Cessna 441 defeated French pilots Didier Canler and Claude Leprieux. David Peckcroft and Tony Hamman of Hong Kong placed third.

Diana is Britain's favourite royal, poll says

LONDON (R) — Britain's Princess Diana is the most popular member of Britain's royal family despite reports of a troubled marriage to Prince Charles, according to an opinion poll. More people blame her to the throne Charles for the problems besetting their 11-year marriage, the survey in the Daily Express newspaper showed. Some 35 per cent of those quizzed blamed the Prince of Wales for the alleged marital strains while only 16 per cent blamed his glamorous wife. Sixty-eight per cent think Prince Charles will be king one day, while 49 per cent believe Diana will be queen. The poll showed that 34 per cent felt Diana was their favourite royal, well ahead of her sister-in-law Princess Anne, a recent divorcee, with 12 per cent and Queen Elizabeth with 11 per cent. The opinion survey assessed public reaction to media reports about the unhappy state of the Wales's marriage and the separation of the Duke and Duchess of York. Half thought Prince Charles and Princess Diana should either separate or divorce, while four in 10 thought they should stay together. The poll provided little encouragement for the outspoken Duchess of York, whom 46 per cent believed had done most damage to the royal family's reputation. Half those questioned held the red-haired duchess, popularly known as "Fergie" responsible for the breakdown of her marriage to the Duke of York, Prince Andrew.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

'China buying advanced Russian weapons'

LOS ANGELES (R) — China is engaged in an extensive campaign to buy advanced weapons from Russia's hard-pressed defence industries and to obtain technology from Russian scientists, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday. Citing concerned U.S. officials and Russian and Chinese defence specialists, the newspaper reported that China is in some instances buying military supplies by dealing directly with individual Russian factories rather than going through Moscow. The deals are enabling Peking to obtain military technology it has been unable to buy from the West since the Bush administration clamped down on such sales after the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Peking's Tiananmen Square in 1989, it said. An example of the new Russian-Chinese military cooperation was the recent sale by Moscow to Peking of 24 Sukhoi-27 warplanes, which are more advanced than anything the Chinese Air Force owned before, the newspaper said. The deal was estimated at more than \$1 billion, it said.

Amnesty International chief dies

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International's executive chief, Annette Fischer, 46, has died in a car crash in Italy, the London-based human rights group said. Fischer and her husband Carl Eli Fischer were killed in a head-on collision in heavy rain in Florence Saturday as they returned home to Denmark after a holiday, Amnesty said. Fischer, a Dane, was elected chairwoman of Amnesty's ruling International Executive Committee in 1991. She was also chairwoman of Amnesty's Danish section from 1986 to 1989.

Macedonians reject name change

BELGRADE (R) — Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in the Macedonian capital Skopje Sunday against the European Community's refusal to recognise the breakaway Yugoslav republic, the Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug said. Greece has blocked EC recognition of the republic, insisting that use of the name Macedonia might encourage territorial claims on a northern Greek region of the same name. The demonstrators said their country had been called Macedonia for centuries and they would never give up the name. Last week Macedonia's parliament passed a vote of no confidence in the coalition government led by Nikola Kijasev, blaming it for the country's serious economic problems and the failure to win international recognition. Macedonia, which has a population of just over two million, voted to break away from the Yugoslav Federation last September. The landlocked territory, bordering Greece, Albania, Serbia and Bulgaria, was the poorest of Yugoslavia's six republics.

Fire threat to Russian bases recedes

MOSCOW (R) — Latvia said Monday that dozens of forest fires were still raging across the country but there was little immediate danger to nearby Russian army bases. Government spokesman Muntant Dutsmanis said experts from Sweden, Finland, France and Germany were advising the Baltic republic on how to tackle the blazes. "There are fires of different magnitudes in 42 places," he said by telephone from the capital Riga. "Everything depends on the direction of the wind. The forecast is for a south-westerly wind which may aggravate the situation." Mr. Dutsmanis said it did not appear there was little danger the fires could spread to Russian army bases in Latvia, although this could not be ruled out.

Pope begins hospital tests

ROME (R) — Prayers for Pope John Paul were said throughout the Roman Catholic world Monday as the 72-year-old Pontiff began intestinal tests which might lead to surgery. Messages of support have been pouring into the Vatican after the Pope's dramatic announcement of his condition in St. Peter's Square Sunday. "All Italy wishes you a speedy recovery," said a message from President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro to the Vatican. The Pope had had earlier told the thousands of tourists and pilgrims gathered for his regular angelus message: "I ask for your prayers so that the Lord is near me with his help and support." Doctors began tests at 0500 GMT Monday after the Pope had spent a restless night in the same room at Rome's Gemelli Clinic in which he recovered after being shot in a 1981 assassination attempt by Turkish-born Mehmet Ali Agca. There was no immediate word about the precise nature of the Pope's complaint nor whether he would need surgery. June after months of bitter debate, presented no legal problem.

Indonesia urged to protect human rights

JAKARTA (R) — Amnesty International appealed to Indonesia Monday to prohibit summary executions and torture which the London-based human rights organisation says are widely used to suppress political dissent. "If those who violate human rights can do so with impunity, they inevitably come to believe they are beyond the reach of the law," the organisation said. "Acts such as extra-judicial executions and torture must be explicitly prohibited by law," it said in a report. Indonesia routinely denies accusations of abuses levelled at it by international human rights organisations and governments of countries such as the United States and Australia. But Amnesty said: "The evidence suggests that a clear and persistent pattern of human rights violations has been practised by the Indonesian authorities as a means for suppressing dissent."

Georgian peace force hits snag

MOSCOW (R) — Fighting flared overnight in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia after plans to send peacekeeping troops into a rebel northern region hit last-minute difficulties, the Russian News Agency ITAR-TASS said Monday.

It quoted the parliament of South Ossetia, which demands independence from Georgia and unification with ethnic kin in Russia, as saying seven people had been killed and 24 wounded in Georgian shelling of the region's capital, Tskhinvali.

In Nagorno-Karabakh, another hotbed of ethnic conflict, Interfax News Agency said 30 Azeri soldiers were killed in fighting with Armenian forces at the weekend.

And in the breakaway Dnestr region of Moldova, a former Soviet republic bordering Romania, reports said two people were killed in overnight fighting between government forces and separatist rebels.

A joint military force is due to be deployed from Tuesday in South Ossetia in the first big peacekeeping operation anywhere in the former Soviet Union.

TASS said Georgian Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani had tabled a late proposal to reduce the contingent of Georgian troops in the South Ossetian Force from a previously-agreed level of 500.

"Such an approach may wipe out two weeks of painstaking work by the four sides to stop the bloodshed in South Ossetia," the agency said.

It was not clear why Mr. Kitovani wanted to cut the Georgian contingent, which was to be deployed with 500 Russians and 500 Ossetians in a buffer force to separate the warring sides.

The Russian news agency Interfax quoted Russian officials on Sunday as saying the Ossetian peace operation was the biggest of its kind and could provide lessons in ending ethnic conflicts elsewhere in the former Soviet Union.

A Georgian Interior Ministry spokesman said Monday that Ossetian militants in the regional capital Tskhinvali had opened automatic weapons fire on a nearby Georgian village overnight, killing one Georgian guardsman and wounding six.

In Moldova, a spokesman for the breakaway Dnestr region said Moldovan forces had pounded residential areas of the town of Bendery with mortars overnight. One volunteer in the largely Russian-speaking Dnestr Guard was killed in shooting.

A Moldovan government spokesman said one Moldovan policeman was killed in shooting near Bendery.

Interfax said at least 30 Azeri soldiers were killed when Armenian troops launched assaults in an attempt to retake the Karabakh villages of Kusafat, Janyatkh and Gulatkh. Armenian forces currently control most of the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is seeking to shake off rule from Baku.

The agency said in a separate report that Armenia had expressed regret to the Russian government over the killing of five Russian soldiers by Armenian forces Friday.

"An Armenian government statement, sent to acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, said the shooting resulted from a lack of coordination between the Russian seventh Army and the Armenian Defence Ministry. It promised a joint investigation to clear up what Russia has described as a "bandit attack".

ICRC bids to end Seoul-Pyongyang impasse

SEOUL (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is trying to settle a row between North and South Korea over a war veteran whose fate may jeopardise the reunion of families split by four decades of cold war hostility.

A South Korean Red Cross official said Monday an ICRC official had visited the country to try to meet Li In-Mo, a Northern partisan captured by the South during the 1950-53 Korean War and jailed for more than 30 years.

"The ICRC recently sent a senior official to Seoul asking to see Li In-Mo and urging the Seoul government to resolve this dispute," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

He did not say if the official had been successful in his mission to meet Mr. Li, 76, held in internal exile in the Southern town of Kimhae since his release from jail in 1988.

North Korea has demanded the unconditional repatriation of Mr. Li, whom it describes as a war correspondent, before it will allow a reunion of families split by the Korean divide to go ahead next month.

Seoul, on the other hand, has branded Mr. Li as a wartime guerrilla and suggested last week it would be willing to release Mr. Li only if Pyongyang returned 278 South Koreans held against their will in the North.

"The repatriations of Li In-Mo

is not the sort of issue to be mixed up with inter-Korean humanitarian work ... (he) should therefore be repatriated to the Northern half of the country unconditionally," Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a weekend report.

It quoted a senior North Korean official as saying it would be impossible to use Mr. Li as a pawn in any North-South exchange.

"There are those from the Northern half of the country who live in the South against their will but there are no South Koreans who live in the North against their will," he said.

Democrats meet to launch Clinton-Gore presidential ticket

NEW YORK (R) — The Democrats gathered Monday in this strutting capital of glitz to launch the Clinton-Gore presidential ticket, full of brash talk and daring to hope they might win back the White House.

The scene was Madison Square Garden near Broadway, the street of dreams. The chatter among thousands of convention delegates was of a vigorous young "dream ticket" reviving John F. Kennedy's magical promise of "a new generation of leadership."

And the hope was that Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, 45, and Tennessee Senator Albert Gore, 44, would use the Big Apple limelight to prove they are indeed a dynamic duo and not just twined and twined from the postwar baby boom with Ivy League diplomas, lots of polish, many accomplishments and wives to match.

New opinion polls suggested they might be profiting from some sort of political sea-change in advance of the prospective general election fight with Republican President George Bush and probable independent candidate Ross Perot.

Nationwide surveys released on the eve of the four-day con-

vention, due to open Monday afternoon, showed Mr. Clinton, Mr. Bush and Mr. Perot bunched so closely as to be in a statistical dead heat. Mr. Clinton was first in two of them.

A poll, CBS and the New York Times, had Mr. Bush out front by 36 per cent of 32 for Mr. Clinton and 26 for Mr. Perot.

In addition a Times-Mirror Poll said Mr. Clinton — dogged in the primaries by allegations he had been a philanderer, a draft-dogger and a youthful pot smoker — now had the most favourable rating of the big three: 59 per cent positive to 45 per cent for Mr. Bush and 48 per cent for Mr. Perot.

All this may be fleeting. Michael Dukakis led Mr. Bush by 17 points after the 1988 convention but almost 40 of the 50 states in November.

And the Perot factor keeps alive a possibility the next president will be chosen not by 100 million voters or even 270 electors but — in the first deadlocked ballot since 1825 — by the House of Representatives and its 50 state votes.

Even so, the opinion poll picture right now is far different from six months ago, when few gave the Democrats much chance to unseat Mr. Bush, or even two

weeks ago when Mr. Clinton was in danger of vanishing behind Mr. Perot and Mr. Bush.

Other factors added bloom to the Clinton rose.

Mr. Perot, the cock-of-the-walk Texas billionaire, has begun stumbling under public scrutiny. He offended some blacks at a convention Saturday by referring repeatedly in a speech to "your people" and "your folks."

Mr. Bush continues to founder under the impact of a very sluggish economy — including 7.8 per cent unemployment.

And the Democrats, known for feuding and fractiousness, seem about as unified as convention eve ever finds them.

Jesse Jackson, the flamboyant black political leader who held the last two Democratic nominees to his policy demands, put aside the bitterness of campaign tiffs with Mr. Clinton and endorsed the ticket over the weekend.

"That's a powerful sign of unity and momentum," said Sen. Gore.

"You know, this is really picking up speed."

Democratic Party Chairman Ron Brown also enthused: "We've got a unified party.

We've got a new generation of Democratic leadership. I'd call it a dream ticket."

And Mario Cuomo, the charismatic New York governor who would have topped the real "dream ticket" of many Democrats, drew the heroic comparison that Democrats have long awaited.

"I think he (Clinton) will make the best candidate since Kennedy," he said in an interview with New York's WNBC.

In choosing Sen. Gore and forsaking the "geographic balance" customary to U.S. presidential tickets, Mr. Clinton not only made a calculated pitch to win back the southern base that has anchored Republican White House wins for 20 years, but he set up the first over "generational" crusade since JFK in 1960.

Let anyone miss the point, Sen. Gore repeats at every turn a variation of Kennedy's stirring new frontier rhetoric about a new generation of leaders who will get America moving again.

Party chairman Brown made clear he would tolerate no dissent in New York. He said the last potential boat-rocker — maverick former California Governor Jerry Brown, who ran a distant second in the Democratic primaries —

would be denied a speaking slot at the convention unless the endorsed Mr. Clinton.

"We Democrats are tired of losing presidential elections. We're going to win in 1992 as a unified party," Mr. Brown said.

Mr. Clinton's nomination was guaranteed by primary wins that gave him far more than half the delegates. The formal vote will take place Wednesday after a nominating speech by Mr. Cuomo.

U.S. presidential conventions have long since devolved into mere rallies where the party gathers its forces and its steam and the delegates party for all they are worth.

Aside from perfunctory duties like approving a campaign platform few will read, the fun is really why the Democrats are here — and New York has laid on a giddy round of galas, boozes, fashion shows, shopping tours and the like.